Daily Report

Latin America

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Cuba

Ambassador Says U.S. 'Twisting' UN Report

FL1905141189 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 19 May 89

[Text] At the United Nations, Cuba has accused the United States of intentionally twisting the report submitted to the UN Human Rights Commission by the delegation that visited Cuba at the invitation of our country's government last September.

During his remarks at the Social Affairs Committee, Thomas Pickering, Washington's permanent representative to the United Nations, said the document submitted to the UN Human Rights Commission by the group that traveled to Cuba proves the fact that those rights are violated in our country.

Cuban Ambassador Maria de los Angeles Flores categorically denied Pickering's assertions and said it is evident that the human rights situation in Cuba does not justify a treatment different than the one received by UN members on those matters.

U.S. May Increase 'Pressures' Against Panama

FL1905205889 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1941 GMT 19 May 89

[Text] The United States is preparing to increase its pressures against Panama in the event that Panama does not accept the OAS proposals. Top-level officials of the U.S. Administration met this Thursday [18 May] with Latin American diplomats after the hemispheric organization approved a resolution on Panama.

The resolution, which was approved this Wednesday [17 May] by 20 votes in favor and 2 against, charged a tripartite commission with traveling to Panama to promote national agreement within that country's democratic organizations in as little time as possible.

The commission is expected to give a report on its efforts next 6 June when the OAS foreign ministers meet again in Washington.

Nonaligned Condemns U.S. Actions in Cuba, Panama

FL2005115889 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 20 May 89

[Text] The ministerial conference in preparation for the ninth summit of the nonaligned countries has concluded in Harare, Zimbabwe. The forum placed specific emphasis on the topics of Namibia and Central America. The nonaligned foreign ministers also recommended that Venezuela be allowed to join the Nonaligned Movement.

The ministers condemned the intensified threats of aggression and hostile transmissions to Cuba from the United States. They also denounced the violation of Cuban territorial waters and airspace, as well as the blockade imposed against Cuba by the United States. The foreign ministers also denounced Washington's decision to begin hostile television transmissions to Cuba. They also reiterated the movement's support for Cuba's demand that the United States return the territory illegally occupied by the Guantanamo Naval Base and to compensate Cuba for damages.

In reference to Panama, the foreign ministers demanded that the United States revoke all coercive, economic, and political measures imposed against that isthmian country. The nonaligned forum also called on the United States to abstain from taking any action against the sovereignty, independence, and integrity of Panama.

More on Nonaligned Criticism

FL2005185089 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 20 May 89

[Station commentary]

[Text] In preparation for the upcoming summit in Belgrade, Yugoslavia, the ministerial meeting of nonaligned countries has just concluded in Harare, Zimbabwe.

At this meeting, the principles of the nonaligned countries were reaffirmed. The ministers clearly expressed their opposition to foreign intervention, occupation, domination, and all kinds of dependency. In each of the matters discussed, the participants always expressed their support for the policy of the emancipation of all the peoples and the right of the peoples to choose their own political, social, and economic development without foreign interference, intimidation, or intervention.

The United States was severely criticized, particularly for its policies toward Central America, Cuba, and Panama. Washington was placed on the defendant's seat for attempting to continue its policy of intervention in Nicaragua, for insisting on maintaining the Contras in Honduras for the purpose of continuing aggression against the sovereignty and integrity of Nicaragua. Washington was placed on the defendant's seat for all the coercive, economic, and political measures imposed against Panama and it was called upon to abstain from committing any action against the sovereignty, independence, and integrity of Panama.

The United States sat in the defendant's seat once again for its shameful policy of blockading Cuba, for its threats against our country, for the violations of our territorial waters and airspace, and for the illegal occupation of part of Cuba's territory. The nonaligned foreign ministers, in conclusion, condemned the U.S. Government for its anti-Cuban transmissions that perhaps constitute the dirtiest, most shameful, and most repugnant page in the history of U.S. hostility against the Cuban Revolution.

Noriega Wants Regional Solidarity With Panama

FL2005182789 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 20 May 89

[Text] General Manuel Antonio Noriega, chief of the Panamanian Defense Forces, today called for Latin American and Caribbean solidarity with the isthmian nation in view of the aggressions Panama is experiencing from the United States.

In an open message, Noriega says: Today, we demand for everyone, absolutely everyone, demonstrations and positions of dignity because today, and only today, is it time for the free peoples of America.

He warned: I call upon the conscience of the peoples of Latin America, without asking for a response. Remember, today it is Panama, but tomorrow it will be you in any of your generations.

Noriega's message says that Panama's problem is more its geographic position than the interoceanic canal because the Caribbean, Central America, and even the southern cone can be strategically controlled from Panama. Because of historic events and justice, the fight sustained in Panama will be the same one that other regional countries will encounter at any given time in their national life, he said. Here in Panama, stressed Noriega, we are fighting the final battle of Latin American dignity against imperialism.

In the meantime, the U.S. Southern Command, located in Panama, has given an order allowing the U.S. military to enter into conflict with Panamanian authorities. The Southern Command said that U.S. soldiers have the right to use force if they encounter obstacles that prevent their advancement along the roads used by Army units and other U.S. war supplies along the canal.

Analysts feel that this announcement is the prelude to a possible U.S. aggression that will unleash a serious conflict in Panama.

Havana Notes Martial Law Declaration in Beijing

PA2105184489 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 20 May 89

[Report by PRENSA LATINA correspondent Jose Luis Robaina]

[Text] Hundreds of thousands of Chinese citizens today challenged the martial law established by authorities in Beijing to restore order and to guarantee the operation of official institutions. Tiananmen Square is currently the scene of demonstrations and hunger strikes. For weeks the square has been full of people despite strict prohibitions on public meetings, demonstrations, and strikes established through the martial law decree.

This morning, the State Council decreed the immediate implementation of martial law in eight Beijing districts. The decree, signed by Premier Li Peng, is based on the Constitution and points to the urgent need to establish public order and labor and social stability in Beijing, which for days has been affected by serious disturbances. The decree establishes martial law in the districts of Hai-tien, the university district, Ch'ao-yang, the diplomatic district, and other districts. It also strictly forbids demonstrations, strikes, and statements of any kind that could lead to disturbances.

This decision was the result of a meeting of top Communist Party and government leaders. The meeting was called to adopt strong emergency measures to eliminate what the leaders described as the chaos reigning in Beijing and other cities.

The meeting was presided over by Qiao Shi, member of the Standing Committee of the Communist Party Politburo, and its principal speaker was Premier Li Peng. His plan of action was immediately supported by Yang Shangkun, vice chairman of the Central Military Commission, who announced that troops were being deployed at that moment from the outskirts into Beijing to establish order. According to Yang Shangkun, the meeting turned out to be very difficult to convene. To prevent anyone from prematurely revealing the plan of action, the meeting had to be called in an almost clandestine fashion. Communist Party leader Zhao Ziyang was not seen at the meeting. He had reportedly resigned several hours before the meeting took place.

In the early morning, despite martial law, tens of thousands of people—many of them in vehicles—began to parade around the city's streets and gathered at Tiananmen Square. People have been constantly calling for a general strike.

Military helicopters overflew the city several times today. Even though nothing has been officially confirmed, it has been reported that several minor incidents took place on the city's outskirts. It has also been reported that groups of workers and students have blocked the access entrances into Beijing to prevent the entrance of the troops deployed by order of the nation's leaders.

The current situation is quite tense. However, there have been no serious incidents.

More on Martial Law Declaration

FL2005134789 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 20 May 89

[Text] The PRC has decreed the immediate establishment of marital law in its capital, Beijing. The decree is based on the urgent need to reestablish public order and restore labor, social, and national stability, which has been affected by serious disorders.

The resolution strictly prohibits demonstrations, strikes, and statements that could incite disturbances. The decree, which is constantly being read over the radio, is signed by Premier Li Peng. The measure was adopted after a meeting of high-level leaders of the party, state, and government. Reports indicate that Zhao Ziyang, general secretary of the Chinese Communist Party, was not seen at the meeting. The secretary general has reportedly resigned.

Carlos Rafael Rodriguez Arrives in Moscow

FL1905124889 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 19 May 89

[Text] Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, member of the Communist Party of Cuba Politburo and vice president of the Councils of State and Ministers, has arrived in Moscow. He heads our country's delegation to the 19th session of the Soviet-Cuban intergovernmental commission for economic and scientific-technical cooperation that will meet at the CEMA offices in the USSR capital today and tomorrow.

Meets With Soviet Counterpart

FL1905203689 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1932 GMT 19 May 89

[Text] The 19th session of the Soviet-Cuban intergovernmental commission for economic and scientific-technical cooperation began today in Moscow to analyze the results of bilateral relations.

The commission, which meets annually with the meeting site alternating between Havana and Moscow, is headed by Cuban Vice President Carlos Rafael Rodriguez and Deputy Chairman of the Soviet Council of Ministers [as heard] Vladimir Kamentsev.

According to experts, the meeting's agenda calls for the officials to study commerce in excess of 8 billion rubles, and economic and scientific-technical cooperation. The two delegations will also discuss maritime transportation between the two nations, which is estimated to be 24 million tons per year, as well as studying the coordination of economic plans for the 1991-95 period.

Bilateral Cooperation May Increase With CSSR

FL1905212489 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1946 GMT 19 May 89

[Text] Czechoslovak Deputy Premier [title as heard] Miroslav Toman classified the possibilities for developing economic and scientific-technical relations between Cuba and the CSSR as promising. This was stated by Toman after signing a protocol at the end of the 13th CSSR-Cuba intergovernmental commission meeting. The meeting began last Monday [15 May] in Prague, capital of the CSSR.

Toman, who presided over the Czechoslovak delegation at the meeting, said that there are great possibilities to increase bilateral cooperation in new areas such as direct relations between enterprises.

Joel Domenech Benitez, his Cuban counterpart and head of the Cuban delegation, talked about the new areas of bilateral cooperation which both nations expect in the future.

Angolan President Receives Carlos Aldana

FL1905143589 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 19 May 89

[Text] Angolan President Jose Eduardo dos Santos has received Carlos Aldana, secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba, in Luanda. Dos Santos and Aldana exchanged views on the last session of the joint commission held on Monday [15 May]. The head of the Cuban delegation to the commission said the meeting with the Angolan president was fraternal, fruitful, and of total agreement.

Tripartite Commission Adopts Peace Measures

FL2005122489 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 20 May 89

[Text] The meeting of the tripartite commission responsible for the verification of the agreements on southern Africa has ended. The representatives from Angola, Cuba, and South Africa adopted additional measures to ensure the uninterrupted application of the peace process in the region.

A press communique reports that South African forces are once again confined to their bases and a de facto cessation of hostilities exists in northern Namibia. The communique says that SWAPO [South-West African People's Organization] forces in Angola are confined to their bases north of the 16th parallel under the supervision of the UNTAG [UN Transition Assistance Group].

This last commission meeting was held in Cahama, Angola and representatives from the USSR and the United States attended as observers.

Economic Policies of Venezuela's Perez Questioned

FL1905180589 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 19 May 89

[Station commentary]

[Text] The charisma of Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez had brought hopes of regional unity. We are now seeing that this has not been enough to satisfy even his own people. During his short period of time at the head of the current government—he became president in February—Perez has had to face two unprecedented events in Venezuelan history.

First, the so-called Caracaso, which took place a few weeks later and, according to some sources, left no less than 500 deaths. Second, the general stoppage observed by over 6 million workers yesterday. What has happened? Simply that Perez has given his economic policy an approach the Venezuelan people did not expect. That is, implement an economic program proposed by the IMF which would take the majority of the Venezuelan people to a situation of critical poverty.

It is not a matter that the Venezuelans did not know that the country would also be submitted to IMF conditions. The matter is that the Venezuelan people trusted that the Perez government was going to assume a firm stand with the IMF and would try to negotiate formulas that would be bearable to the Venezuelan society. Perez himself suggested this in his speeches prior to his swearing in. Nevertheless, his remarks now have an almost fatalistic air. He not only says he will firmly maintain his economic adjustments program but that there are no other options, that Venezuela cannot break with the IMF or stop paying the debt because all the possibilities to access foreign credits would be eliminated and there would be a threat that Venezuelan properties abroad would be seized.

Perhaps President Perez is right. But one should ask: Is there not also the danger of political death or, what is worse, of the end of civilian processes on the continent? We will see.

Economic, Scientific Accord Signed With Vietnam

FL1905182789 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 19 May 89

[Text] The 11th intergovernmental meeting between Cuba and Vietnam has concluded in Havana with the signing of an economic and scientific-technical cooperation agreement. The final document was signed by Army General Vo Nguyen Giap, member of the Central Committee of the Vietnamese Communist Party, and by Antonio Rodriguez Maurell, vice president of the Council of Ministers.

During the negotiations, the two parties said the work conducted by the agriculture, cattle, public health, and sugar industry subcommittees was successful. The protocol allows for technical assistance, training, trade, and cooperative production in the pharmaceutical and chemical industries.

The delegates to the meeting also worked on efficiency, taking into account the economic situation of each country. Because of this, three documents were signed by subcommissions in the fields of science and technology, agricultural-livestock, and trade.

As a result of this cooperation, Cuba will receive rice, black beans, lumber, rubber, and other light industry products from Vietnam. The signed agreements regulate cooperation until 1990.

Severo Aguirre Meets With FRG Parliamentarian

FL1905125089 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 19 May 89

[Text] Dr (Dieter Klink), member of the Social Democratic Party of Germany and president of the Bremen State parliament, is in our country at the invitation of the Cuban Institute of Friendship With Peoples.

Visiting the offices of the National Assembly of the People's Government [ANPP] today, Dr (Klink) met with Severo Aguirre del Cristo, top leader of the Cuban parliament, and with other ANPP officials. This is Dr (Klink)'s first visit to our country. He said he was pleased to be on the island, which has traditional ties with his federated state, made up of the cities of Bremen and Bremerhaven, both important ports for the FRG.

Delegation in France for Debt Rescheduling

FL2205131489 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 22 May 89

[Text] Cuba will begin negotiations for the rescheduling of its foreign debt today in Paris. For that purpose, a Cuban delegation is in the French capital, which is headed by minister president of the National Bank of Cuba, Hector Rodriguez Llompart.

Llompart has said he hopes to find a will which will lead to objective and realistic solutions regarding the Cuban situation. He emphasized that to date, Cuba has not been facilitated the access to ready cash [dinero fresco] or credit which would permit the country to gradually reach the normalization of its financial relations with creditor countries and banks.

Military Ceremony Marks Marti's Fall in Combat

FL1905154889 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1455 GMT 19 May 89

[Text] A military ceremony is taking place in Dos Rios, Granma Province this morning on the occasion of the 94th anniversary of the fall in combat of our national hero Jose Marti. The event is being presided over by Esteban Lazo, member of the Communist Party of Cuba Politburo; Raul Michel Vargas, alternate PCC Politburo; and Jaime Crombet, secretary of the PCC Central Committee.

Castro Sends Floral Wreath

FL2005010589 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 20 May 89

[Text] The 94th anniversary of Marti's fall in battle was marked with a solemn ceremony in Santiago de Cuba. A floral wreath sent by Commander in Chief Fidel Castro Ruz, first secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba [PCC] Central Committee and president of the Councils of State and Ministers, was placed on the tomb of national hero Jose Marti, in Santiago's Santifigenia Cemetery.

PCC and Government officials were present at the ceremony, which was held in the mausoleum which holds Marti's remains, in which even the youngest generation honored the master. This is a place which is considered one of the most venerated places of the fatherland.

Juan Almeida Welcomes Internationalist Combatants
FL1905151589 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 19 May 89

[Text] Cuba continues complying with the agreements signed between Cuba, Angola, and South Africa during the tripartite meeting held last December. Another group of internationalist combatants arrived in our fatherland last night and was welcomed at the airport by Commander of the Revolution Juan Almeida Bosque, member of the Communist Party of Cuba Politburo, Division General Ramon Pardo Guerra, and other leaders.

Some 150 combatants arrived this time in one of the Angolan airlines. They all bear the Cuba-Angola Victory Medal. This group's average age is between 22 and 26 years. Four of those young men won the Calixto Garcia Bravery Medal for having carried out heroic acts during combat. One hundred and fifty internationalist contingents have already set foot on Cuban soil.

Fidel Castro Tours Havana Province Factory
FL2005124989 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 20 May 89

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro yesterday visited the enterprise that manufactures construction equipment in Guira de Melena Municipality, Havana Province. He expressed special interest in the production of frontal loaders and their use. He also stressed the importance of levelers and their use in constructing dams and drainage plots. The commander in chief called for the workers to produce as many pieces of this type of equipment as possible during the remainder of the year.

Fidel also saw what will be the first bulldozer [preceding word in English] manufactured in Cuba and called for it to be finished on time and with the required quality.

While talking with the workers, Fidel asked them about their working conditions and the attention they receive.

Education Minister Discusses Role of Teacher
FL1905154089 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1325 GMT 19 May 89

[Text] The role of the teacher does not only entail teaching classes and practical skills, it also includes ethical, moral, political, and ideological training to give students an overall education that will make them truly revolutionary citizens. This was said by Cuban Education Minister Jose Ramon Fernandez at the plenary meeting on education in Santiago de Cuba Province.

During the meeting, the participants discussed the prospects for using workshops and machinery, class attendance and timeliness, the quality of advancement, and dedication to work.

The education minister mentioned the need to use the daily newspaper as an instrument of great educational and ideological value in expanding the scope of teaching.

MININT Officers Honored in Havana City
FL1905163489 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1455 GMT 19 May 89

[Text] A group of 26 Interior Ministry [MININT] officers have been honored by the government and party of Havana on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the state security organs. Pedro Chavez, member of the Communist Party of Cuba Central Committee and president of the Assembly of the People's Government in Havana City, read the agreement of the Executive Committee of the government organ in the territory.

[Begin Chavez recording] It has been agreed to grant the Giraldilla of Havana to a group of MININT state security officers in recognition of their merits during the struggle for the preservation of domestic safety and order. This has been made possible because of the sustained exemplary and dedicated behavior exhibited to reach the objectives. [end recording]

Later, Jorge Lezcano, member of the PCC Central Committee and first secretary of the party in Havana, handed Division General Jose Abrantes, interior minister, a diploma for MININT's outstanding help for the capital to obtain the ready-for-defense, first stage, status.

Raul Castro Congratulates Textile Plant Workers
FL1905152289 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 19 May 89

[Text] Army General Raul Castro, second secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba Central Committee and FAR [Revolutionary Armed Forces] minister, has sent a congratulatory letter to the Matanzas textile plant Helio Teijeiro, Bellotex, for donating 150,000 pesos for the creation of the Association of Combatants of the Revolution. The money comes from the incentive funds. Workers unanimously decided to make the donation during a welcoming ceremony for a group of internationalist combatants from Matanzas.

Application of Subsystem in Warehouses Assessed
FL1905192689 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 19 May 89

[Text] Fifty percent of the warehouses in Ciego de Avila Province were inspected for 6 days to verify the application of the subsystem to control rotation, standardization [normado], and materials. The closing ceremony was presided over by Lionel Soto Prieto, member of the Secretariat of the Central Committee of the Communist

Party of Cuba [PCC], and Alfredo Hondal Gonzalez, member of the Central Committee and first PCC secretary of Ciego de Avila Province.

It was reported that 92 percent of the more than 300 warehouses inspected established the subsystem and a minimal amount of errors were detected that represent less than 1 percent. Thirty-three enterprises were recognized for their results and only two—the school furniture enterprise and Integral Construction Enterprise No 1—reported problems in applying the subsystem.

In his closing remarks, Lionel Soto said that his country is progressing toward a more orderly stage in its economy that overcomes the period of big controls. This leads to a more objective and exact control over our methods.

[Begin unidentified speaker recording, in progress] ...and also to truly advance in the economic area and to defend ourselves to the maximum at this point in the country's history, the present. We will come out on top and we will triumph. [end recording]

Pedro Ross Leal Visits Ciego de Avila Province

FL1905231089 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1950 GMT 19 May 89

[Text] The 16th congress of the CTC [Central Organization of Cuban Trade Unions] is not a simple meeting to discuss documents nor formulate policies; it is a process which has already begun to produce more and solve problems. This was stated by Pedro Ross Leal, Secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba [PCC] Central Committee and president of the organizing committee for the CTC meeting, during a visit to Ciego de Avila Province.

He said that this process was initiated on 1 May when the notice for the 16th CTC Congress was issued. This is also when debate sessions began in every work center to establish production commitments and solve problems. However, we do not want this to be a formal event in which commitments are read and workers raise their hands to mechanically approve them, said Ross. He said it is necessary that everyone participate and express their views.

Ciego de Avila Completes Harvest Despite Rains

FL2205132689 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 22 May 89

[Text] Ciego de Avila Province has fulfilled its production goal for the present sugar harvest. Despite the weather problems faced by the province, the enthusiasm and responsible effort of the sugar workers and population allowed the province to fulfill its commitment.

Excellent work was done by the provincial MINAZ [Sugar Ministry] delegation in organizing work plans from the beginning of the harvest thus allowing the production goal to be reached.

The festivities to celebrate the province's triumph were held at the Orlando Gonzalez Agro-industrial Complex and were presided over by Alfredo Hondal, member of the Communist Party of Cuba Central Committee and first secretary of the Provincial Central Committee.

AIDS Discussed at 'Hematology 89' Conference

FL1905233489 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1958 GMT 19 May 89

[Text] With the active participation of specialists from Brazil, Spain, and Mexico in the meeting on AIDS, the last session of "Hematology'89" was held in Havana.

At the conference, delegates are discussing matters, such as the importance of prenatal tests to detect the AIDS virus in pregnant women, of which over 350,000 tests have been done with a very low incidence of zero positive results, as well as the comparative study of the (Humeliza) technique with other commercial research firms.

Dr Hector Terry, vice public health minister, will discuss Cuba's programs to control AIDS in front of over 500 delegates. The effective and just measures used by Cuba to care for infected patients and man's health have been acknowledged by prestigious specialists from around the world.

Havana To Hold Defense Day Exercises 20 May

FL2005023189 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 20 May 89

[Text] Tomorrow, Saturday [20 May], thousands of Havana residents will participate in the defense day maneuvers.

[Begin Brigade General Lino Carreras recording, identified by caption] For tomorrow, Saturday, we have planned defense day exercises in which the individual preparation of militia members, armed defense and protection brigades, economic objectives, and evacuation brigades can be carried out. Also participating in defense day will be 15-year old students and a Pioneer brigade.

We have also planned eight integral zone defense exercises. The defense zones are already being prepared for more advanced activities that will be held in the future with the purpose of preparing the brigades and all the groups in a defense zone; this includes reservists, militias, and brigade members. This will show them how a defense zone should act and use all of their combative and evacuation elements in a given mission.

The main objective is not to lose time. We want to do everything the way it is planned. We also want the militia and brigade members feel motivated by the courses they take on defense day. [end recording]

Camaguey Chief Satisfied With Castro's Statement

FL2205135289 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 22 May 89

[Text] Lazaro Vazquez Garcia, alternate member of the Communist Party of Cuba [PCC] Politburo and first secretary of the Camaguey Province Central Committee, expressed his satisfaction at Commander in Chief Fidel Castro's statements on the work done by the people of Camaguey Province in the development plan Castro outlined 2 years ago.

The efforts carried out by the people of Camaguey are not only to mark the main ceremony for the 26 July celebration, but also to show their revolutionary attitude which will always continue, said the provincial leader.

Holguin Province Fulfills Sugar Production Goal

FL2205130789 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 22 May 89

[Text] Holguin Province has added its name to the list of provinces which have fulfilled their sugar production goals. Now, 4 of its 10 agro-industrial complexes continue to work.

Despite the constant interruptions caused by rain, the present harvest is one of the largest in volume. This is mainly due to the new political-administrative division which was established in 1976. The rains were the main obstacle in the harvest because they caused the loss of 194 work days. To a lesser degree, industrial problems also caused the loss of work time.

Nevertheless, there was a 28.3 percent increase in this year's harvest in contrast to the last campaign which ended in May. Also, there was a significant accomplishment in efficiency, as well as the quality of the secondary product, which matches that of the primary product, something which has not been achieved in years.

Still working are the Guatemala, Fernando de Dios, Frank Pais, and Nicaragua agro-industrial centers.

Municipal Assemblies Fully Constituted

FL2205120889 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 22 May 89

[Text] The 169 Municipal Assemblies of the People's Government were simultaneously constituted throughout the country as dictated by electoral law.

In a solemn ceremony, the 14,246 delegates from the entire nation pledged their loyalty to the Revolution and committed themselves to capably fulfill the duties for which they were elected in the 30 April and 7 May elections. The delegates to the provincial assemblies, who were also elected in these elections, will be sworn in next Sunday [28 May], at which time they will elect their executive committee by secret ballot.

The municipal government organs carry out their duties in the economic, production, and service entities which are subordinate to them. Also, according to the rules, they carry out assistance, economic, cultural, educational, and recreation activities in the areas under their jurisdiction.

Caribbean Affairs

Winair To Fly to Antigua, Montserrat

FL1905144989 Bridgetown CANA in English 2157 GMT 18 May 89

[Text] St John's, Antigua, May 18, CANA—Windward Islands Airways (Winair) has begun daily services between St Maarten and Antigua with connecting flights to Montserrat.

The airline said the service which began Monday includes four flights weekly to Montsterrat via Antigua, and three flights weekly to operate St Maarten-St Kitt's-Antigua-St Kitt's-St Maarten.

The airline said: "Winair is determined to serve the traveling public to the best of its abilities, and these services are another effort to accommodate our passengers' needs."

Winair will be using DHC-6300 Twin Otters by the De Havilland Company of Canada with an approximate flying time of 40 minutes between St Maarten and Antigua and 15 minutes between Antigua and Montserrat.

Liat, the Caribbean airline, has been appointed to be ground handling agents in Antigua while Monsterrat Aviation Services will do the handling in Plymouth.

Dominican Republic

Leftist Leader Defends Right To Travel to Libya

FL2005162289 Santo Domingo Radio Mil Network in Spanish 1153 GMT 20 May 89

[Passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] Leftist leader Esteban Diaz Jaquez has said that the police are violating the Constitution and the law by persecuting three leftist leaders. The spokesman for the Dominican Workers Party said it is a dangerous sign that the police are using the fact that the leaders traveled to Libya as a pretext to persecute them. Diaz Jaquez said the police are trying to return to former President Trujillo's old methods of persecuting anyone who travels to a socialist country. Diaz Jaquez then said:

"The information on the activities of the security corps is of some concern because in bringing charges against Roberto Duvolyet, Fernando Pena, and [first name indistinct] Lizardo, the police said that the fact that one of these men—in this case, Mr Lizardo—had visited

Libya is proof that a crime had been committed, thus giving the impression that whoever goes to that Arab country is committing a crime."

The leftist leader says that the police should remember that the Constitution and the laws of the Republic confirm each Dominican citizen's right to travel.

[Diaz Jaquez] "No state security organ, much less the national police, can plead ignorance because, since 1978, the laws that prohibited Dominicans from traveling to Cuba, China, the USSR, and other countries were overturned by Congress during the government presided over by former President Antonio Guzman. These Trujillo-like methods limited the citizens' right to travel."

The leftist spokesman said that Dominicans have a right to travel anywhere in the world without having to be the object of persecution, if they attain the appropriate visa and take into consideration the requirements for each location.

[Diaz Jaquez] "That is why the Dominican Workers Party is demanding that President Balaguer and the Dominican attorney general categorically prohibit state security organs from maintaining vigilance, persecuting, or arresting people that have traveled to Libya, the DPRK, or other countries, as is occurring now.

"Dr Balaguer and the attorney general of the Dominican Republic is required to see that the Constitution and the laws of the Republic are fulfilled. They are also obligated to prevent political persecution instead of making a citizen seem like he's committed a crime when he is exercising a right that is constitutionally guaranteed."

Secret Service Agents Search for 'Terrorist'

FL2005165689 Santo Domingo Radio Mil Network in Spanish 1201 GMT 20 May 89

[Text] Secret Service agents are actively looking for student leader Fernando Pena who was released from jail by the district attorney's office in the National District. Police arrested Pena and two other people for the acts of terrorism that the country has recently experienced. According to police sources, the Secret Service is searching for Fernando Pena to discuss certain matters of interest.

The former student leader's home was searched by the police on Thursday [18 May] and several agents were dispatched yesterday to find Pena. Authorities have accused Pena, Ricardo Cabrera, and Robert [middle name indistinct] Mejia, of committing the acts of terrorism that caused the death of the infant, Iris Sanchez Lopez.

Haiti

Avril's Flag Day Speech Stresses Reconciliation

FL1905163589 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1100 GMT 19 May 89

[Excerpts] Yesterday, 18 May, was Flag and University Day. This day was celebrated in several different parts of Haiti. Here in Port-au-Prince all the ceremonies took place in front of the National Palace. There was a single salient idea in the government's speeches on the occasion of this 186th anniversary of the creation of the Haitian flag: national reconciliation.

Education Minister Remy Zamor insisted heavily on the importance of following the example of our ancestors, who set aside their egotism in order to create a nation. Zamor feels that each little group is wrong in thinking that it can succeed alone, while pulling the entire sheet over to its side of the bed.

For General Avril, the president of the military government, a national reconciliation is the only chance we have to prevent the country's collapse. We simply cannot continue to provide such a spectacle of division.

Both speeches moralized, seeking the cause of the difficult situation the nation is experiencing today. According to (?the speeches), the selfishness and petty personal ambitions of the Haitian people have caused this situation. Gen Avril asked everyone to set this all aside, even if they have suffered and been abused, and effect a national reconciliation. For Avril, everyone should follow the example of the Lord God who pardoned the sins of mankind by sacrificing his only son.

General Avril invited those who are literate to help the others learn to read a little, before elections arrive.

[Begin Avril recording] People of Haiti: We think—in fact we are certain—that it is only when this fighting among ourselves stops that the country will be able to be saved. We know that it is extremely difficult to erase the pain, the abuses, and all the evil actions of which you have been the victims. However, to heed the lessons of Haitian history, given the way things are right now, it is now vital that there be peace in Haiti.

Those who have been victims or have been traumatized might say that this is asking too much of them. But where would we be today if the Lord God had felt that way too? On the contrary, in order to pardon us for everything we had done, the Lord God sacrificed his very son.

The diehards—those who say they will not heed these prayers—might want to maintain their position staunchly. Are they also ready to bear the responsibility for destroying our nation? If we do not reconcile with one another, the country will be destroyed.

[Words indistinct] big general strikes, brothers killing brothers! Where would we be today if we had used that time to teach our brothers in the rural areas to read and write? Is it too late, friends, for us to launch a great campaign this summer where every educated Haitian takes 10 of his brothers who cannot read and works with them? This will at least make them capable of recognizing the name of the person they might like to elect to run the nation's business. [end recording]

For the education minister, change in Haiti will come through the schools, which must change. This is why they have decided to have a single kind of instruction, at all levels—a kind of instruction in keeping with the country's needs. According to the minister, this new type of instruction will seek to train young people who will not quarrel with one another tomorrow.

The minister feels the university has a role to play in effecting change in Haiti. [passage omitted]

We must remind listeners that, in general, the students did not accept the education minister's invitation to participate in the official 18 May celebrations. The Institute of African Studies and Research of Haiti declared that education was not a priority for the Avril government. It said the minister of education had no word of honor, because he had agreed to the modalities for the election of a temporary university rector and had signed documents to that effect, and was now asking the university committee to redo them. [passage omitted]

Army Changes Made; Security Measures Taken
FL1905205289 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1100 GMT 19 May 89

[Text] According to reports from official military sources, there were several changes in the Army on Wednesday [17 May]. Major Irving Mehu, who was the commander of the military district of Petion-Ville, was discharged from the service.

Lieutenant Castera Cenat-Fils, who was at the Leopard camp, was transferred and made commander of the subdistrict of Limbe.

Sublieutenants Pierre Andre Chevry and Ronald Bertrand Excellent, who were both at the Leopard camp, have been transferred to the Port-au-Prince Police as duty officers [officiers de service].

In addition to these transfers, the Army high command on that same Wednesday sent a total of 53 Leopard Corps enlisted men to the tactical unit in the central plateau and the tactical units of the Northeast, Grande Anse, and Northwest. Five others were assigned to the Army General Headquarters detachment, and 69 enlisted men are going to remain at the Leopard camp, which is going to become a center for training soldiers for the Haitian Army.

Last week, the military authorities transferred several Leopard Corps and Dessalines Barracks soldiers to the Port-au-Prince Police. Despite all this, however, the police authorities still say they lack personnel to (?do their job), and the insecurity increases daily. The Army High Command met on Tuesday, 16 May, to discuss the matter of insecurity. Among the measures taken on that occasion was the matter of the uniforms. According to information from official military sources, beginning this week, the Army hierarchy is not authorizing any soldier to walk the streets in an olive green uniform. According to this information, the Army General Headquarters will not be responsible for anything that might happen to any soldier who disregards this order. As of the date that this measure was taken, soldiers must circulate in khaki uniforms. These sources say that the soldiers may wear the olive green uniform only in the barracks or while they are out in the field in rural areas.

In this connection, the Armed Forces are planning to ask merchants to no longer order khaki fabric. Only the Army will have the right to order khaki fabric abroad. This measure is going to force directors of government lycees and schools to take measures to change their schools' uniforms next October.

For its part, the Port-au-Prince Police has taken a number of measures since Wednesday. The police have divided Port-au-Prince into 23 surveillance zones. These areas will be patrolled between [word indistinct] and 0500. The police have 176 men available for these patrols. Of these men, 12 are from the Presidential Guard, 12 from the Navy, 4 from the Air Corps, 4 from the Army School of Instruction, and 10 from the Signal Corps.

The police will have 22 vehicles available with which to patrol. The Port-au-Prince police authorities have decided to use the press to get information on criminality. They are planning to encourage the population to participate with the police in the struggle against insecurity. However, they did not say how nor did they directly speak of vigilance brigades.

According to a military source, Dominicans living in Haiti were the ones who tried to hold up Joe Etienne's store last Friday morning.

The police have not yet given any explanation of the explosion that occurred on the Champ de Mars Tuesday night, in which nine people were wounded.

Furthermore, still according to a military source, many of the weapons circulating in the streets are weapons that Duvalier had sent for storage at the end of 1986 [year as heard], to his house, Petit Rocher, [words indistinct] looted after 7 February 1986.

Also, we have learned that soldiers sometimes ask for sick leave or other leave and use the time to commit crimes at night that fall under the category of insecurity. The police have not yet found any solution to the problem of insecurity that has spread over the capital. Meanwhile, since the April events, there has been a situation of uncertainty that allows no one to feel reassured, especially at a time when there is talk of elections. Everyone is wondering if there will be other massacres. In any case, according to Commerce Ministry figures, between September 1987 and September 1988, at least 50,000 machetes were sold, while in the month of April 1989 alone, Commerce Ministry figures show that

80,000 machetes were sold. According to information we have been able to collect, most of these machetes came from Brazil, and their price in Haiti ranges from $2 to $3, according to their length.

With the citizens suffering from insecurity, there is a need to rebuild a different Army, based on service and devotion to the nation's causes. The question being asked is: Who is going to do this, (?for what purpose), and to whose advantage?

Observers have been talking for some time now about the power of the Presidential Guard, who might even, should elections be held, make the presidential chair even more of a hotseat for a civilian president. There are many rumors circulating that there is a big division between two companies in the Presidential Guard Battalion because of a number of advantages that one company reportedly gets and the other does not. If these rumors turn out to be true, are they going to have to go through the April events again, observers wonder.

Analysts say that the decisions to dismantle the Dessalines Barracks and Leopard Corps are based on the problem of the existence of a 1,000-man corps, the Presidential Guard, just to ensure the security of a single person, while more than a million people who pay taxes have no security.

Another aspect that we can point out before putting an end to this matter is that the traffic policemen in Port-au-Prince risk reinforcing the citizenry's lack of trust in the Army and the police. They also risk creating a number of regrettable conflicts and incidents in the coming days because of their attitude, which has been reinforced by their having been given Uzi's and heavy-caliber machineguns to carry, in place of billy clubs, traffic ticket pads, and whistles.

Military, Peasants Clash Over Land Dispute

FL1905202189 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1100 GMT 19 May 89

[Report by correspondent Milceus Gaspard]

[Text] On 17 May at around 1:00 [am or pm not specified], approximately 36 soldiers from Saint-Marc once again arrived in Grand Bois and pressured the population, firing off heavy-caliber weapons. The soldiers set fire to six peasant houses.

Today many people have had to flee. There are rumors that the military men are going to come back once again and arrest people who have a problem with Charidieu Joseph and wreck houses so as to drive everyone out of the area.

We remind listeners that around noon on 16 May, the military arrived in the area and there was a clash between Charidieu Joseph and the peasants from the Ti-Bois and Grand Bois crossroads, in the 3d communal section of Marchand Dessalines, because of a land conflict that has been going on for 3 years.

According to several peasants from Grand Bois, Joseph was clubbed in the arm some 2 weeks ago by an unidentified person from Carrefour Roger. He filed a complaint with the captain from Saint-Marc, who sent approximately 12 soldiers out to avenge Charidieu. At around noon on 16 May, the military arrived on the large rural estates of Ti Bois and Grand Bois, firing heavy-caliber weapons. In [words indistinct] the peasants responded to the weapon fire by throwing big rocks. One person was killed, two others were seriously wounded, and three houses were burned down.

When the soldiers left, the population took to the streets. They overran the house of Joseph's mother, [name indistinct], who was hacked to death with machetes. Then they burned the house to the ground and took the wounded persons to the hospital in Deschappelles for medical attention.

We point out that this (?whole thing) began after Jean-Claude Duvalier's departure, when peasants invaded all the land Zachary Delva [popularly identified as a notorious macoute] had given Joseph for (?being) macoute commandant in Marchande Dessalines.

The rumor today is that these soldiers from Saint-Marc are going to come back and wreck houses in Grand Bois and drive everyone out of the area. Thus, everyone in Grand Bois is forced to ask the Justice Department to open an investigation into this matter, so as to return the land to those peasants who possess documents and to prevent Joseph from claiming land without possessing documents and from harvesting without having planted at the Ti Bois and Grand Bois crossroads in the third communal section of Marchand Dessalines.

This is Milceus Gaspard, Radio Soleil, Petite Riviere de l'Artibonite.

Further on Grand Bois Dispute

FL2005130089 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1230 GMT 20 May 89

[Text] In Haiti, clashes yesterday left two people dead and nine homes destroyed. Port-au-Prince radio stations reported yesterday that a dispute over land reform caused clashes between farmers and soldiers. The conflict occurred in Grand Bois, 50 miles north of the capital.

Interior Ministry Issues Communique on Searches

FL2005160089 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1100 GMT 19 May 89

[Text] The Ministry of Interior and National Defense informs the public that the searches that have been conducted in certain neighborhoods and houses in the capital have been fruitful. The police have caught a

number of Haitians and foreigners in flagrante delicto, carrying firearms illegally, as well as possessing ammunition for these firearms. Thus far, 24 Uzi machineguns and 8 FAL rifles have been collected.

The ministry appeals to the population to be understanding and cooperative in connection with the searches. These searches are the only way it can recover weapons, which are keeping people awake at night and which a number of lawless individuals do not hesitate to use to sow mourning among Haitian families. Thus, the ministry asks for everyone to collaborate, so that this work can continue. The ministry hopes that the population will realize and understand that it has taken this initiative to reestablish security completely so that everyone will be able to go about his business normally.

This press release is from the Ministry of Interior and National Defense.

However, the Interior Ministry press release does not give the date these searches were conducted in Port-au-Prince.

We must point out that the capital is not the only place where there is a great deal of shooting from heavy-caliber weapons all night long. The same thing is happening in several provincial towns, such as Cap-Haitien and Saint-Marc. The ministry's press release says nothing about these cases. Nor does it say anything about the many organized gangs carrying heavy-caliber weapons and wearing military uniforms that are committing robberies every night all over Haiti, as well as murdering people, raping women, and committing all kinds of criminal acts against anybody who falls into their hands. Both people circulating peaceably in their private vehicles and people using public transportation are having problems with these men who are creating insecurity everywhere in Haiti.

Duvalierists Said To Have Started Campaigning

FL2005153889 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1100 GMT 19 May 89

[Excerpt] There has not yet been any official statement or news on elections in Haiti, however, the Duvalierists have begun campaigning in the Thiotte area. Reports from Bodary say that the Duvalierists have already begun their electoral campaign.

The former deputy for Thiotte, (Rony Gilot), is going around campaigning for the MNPH [Haitian Nationalistic and Progressive Movement], which is the political party headed by Alphonse Lahens. (Gilot) has already been to several places, such as Bodary, Mapou, and Platon Figuier.

The Bodary Youth Union [Inyon Jen Bodary] denounces this premature campaign, as well as the distribution of political party cards to peasants that is going on. [passage omitted]

Costa Rica

Arias on 'Diplomatic Measures' Against Panama

PA1905152089 Paris AFP in Spanish 0725 GMT 19 May 89

[Text] San Jose, 18 May (AFP)—Costa Rican President Oscar Arias said today Costa Rica could adopt additional diplomatic measures against Panama if the OAS agreement, which is seeking a solution to the Panamanian crisis, "drifts away from the pursued objectives."

In a speech broadcast over a television network, Arias praised the OAS foreign ministers' consensus condemning Panama's General Manuel Antonio Noriega's regime and predicted the OAS resolution will inaugurate "a new era" in continental diplomacy if it obtains "the expected results quickly."

Arias said: "The continent wants to give dialogue a chance and to give enough time for reason to prevail and for the Panamanian people to be able to freely elect a president."

The OAS decided to send a delegation to Panama to seek a solution to the crisis Panama has been experiencing since the annulment of the 7 May elections.

Arias said: "It is sad to see how stubborn tyrants harm their people and cling to power by ignoring and flouting election results" and intimidating citizens.

513 Refugees From Panama, Nicaragua in Apr

PA1905124189 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1200 GMT 18 May 89

[Text] According to a report by the Public Security Ministry, 513 refugees entered Costa Rica in April. Although this total includes Panamanians, most of the refugees have entered the territory from Nicaragua. Although most of the refugees are men traveling by themselves, in a number of cases, entire families have crossed the border.

El Salvador

FMLN To Increase Urban, Antiaircraft Actions

PA2005211989 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 20 May 89

[Text] The Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] said today in a document made public in Mexico that with the rise to power of the Nationalist Republican Alliance [ARENA], the possibility of achieving peace has become more remote but is not absolutely eliminated. The document, signed by Commander Joaquin Villalobos, said that with ARENA's arrival, peace will be delayed and some time may have to pass until the party realizes the need to negotiate with the rebels.

Villalobos said that the war has changed and conceded that the present system that is in control will not fall simply because of the number of Army casualties; he said the system's military plans must be neutralized and the political factor must be activated.

Villalobos added that military confrontation has changed from a war of attrition to one in which there will be an effort to fight in densely populated areas during the day and especially to fire against aircraft. According to the document, Villalobos affirmed that the guerrillas' antiaircraft fire power needs improvement because Air Force power is the heart of the Armed Forces' strength.

Merino on Area Unity; D'Aubuisson Role

PA2005195489 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1840 GMT 20 May 89

[Text] Guatemala City, 20 May (EFE)—Salvadoran Vice President-elect Jose Francisco Merino says that the next Salvadoran Government will be pro-Central America and promote a dialogue with all area countries, including Nicaragua, which is interfering in El Salvador's internal affairs by sending arms to the guerrillas.

"We will struggle for true regional integration, not only economic, but social and political as well, so that we can stop talking about El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, and Costa Rica, and we can begin to talk about Central America instead," he said.

On domestic policy, the government to be presided over by Alfredo Cristiani, from the rightist Nationalist Republican Alliance (ARENA), will be open to dialogue with the guerrillas to end the 8-year war, which has claimed more than 700,000 [as received] lives.

The Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) has no real power, only power "on paper," for it does have foreign media support; "however, militarily, it has nothing any more," he emphasized.

Merino insisted that right now the Salvadoran Army has control throughout the country and that the will of the people was expressed at the polls, which gave the victory to ARENA, which will assume power on 1 June.

Concerning Major Roberto D'Aubuisson, ARENA's founder, Merino said that he will hold no public post in the next Salvadoran Government. "D'Aubuisson will continue his current activities within the party as party ideologue, a position he has enjoyed for a long time," he said. Francisco Merino is in Guatemala on the invitation of Guatemalan Vice President Roberto Carpio Nicolle.

Rosa Chavez on Evacuation of Disabled Rebels

PA2105144189 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 19 May 89

[Text] Msgr Gregorio Rosa Chavez, San Salvador auxiliary bishop, said today that President Jose Napoleon Duarte called off the departure of the disabled guerrillas because of the confrontations in various parts of the country and the lack of reciprocity on the part of the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front].

Rosa Chavez said that Duarte spoke directly with the Archbishopric, which mediates between the government and the FMLN. Regarding Duarte's reasons for suspending the evacuation process, which was already in progress, Rosa Chavez said that the reasons could be the recent increase in FMLN violence and ARENA [Nationalist Republican Alliance] leaders' strong opposition to the announced departure.

[Begin Rosa Chavez recording] The president must begin by uniting the Salvadoran people. Let us try to imagine what it would be like for Duarte to complete his term in office with an open confrontation among the government branches. Such a situation would not be healthy for democracy or conducive to national coexistence. [Words indistinct] [end recording]

Rosa Chavez said that because reconciliation among the Salvadoran people will be the new administration's greatest challenge, the administration's policy should be to foster dialogue and to humanize the conflict. Rosa Chavez believes that President-elect Alfredo Cristiani will not advocate an exclusively military solution, but will bear in mind the human side of the conflict and the difficulties resulting from the pressures from within ARENA and external pressures from other statesmen in the world. As for the uncertainty surrounding the evacuation effort yesterday, Rosa Chavez said that the decision depends on several factors.

[Begin Rosa Chavez recording] First, we must consider the church's position. Regarding procedural matters, we are not sure if the list of war disabled is still valid. Second, we have to consider the logistics of the operation, which depends on the [word indistinct]. The entire plan could be changed, precisely at the places [words indistinct], where the people keep moving. However, the political factor is unchanging, and the president's decision is final. [end recording]

Rosa Chavez expressed hope that the new government will not impede dialogue and that Cristiani's position will elicit an equal response from the FMLN.

109 Authorized To Leave

PA2105200189 Paris AFP in Spanish 1827 GMT 21 May 89

[Text] San Salvador, 21 May (AFP)—Archbishop of San Salvador Msgr Arturo Rivera y Damas announced today that a few hours ago, Jose Napoleon Duarte's administration authorized the departure of a group of 109 guerrillas disabled during the war.

Rivera y Damas said during his homily at the cathedral that Duarte had suspended the evacuation of the war wounded after urban commandos from the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) launched an attack against the residence of Legislative Assembly President Ricardo Alvarenga.

Msgr Rivera y Damas said that "everything is ready" for the evacuation of the war wounded, which will be carried out with the participation of the International Red Cross and the Catholic Church.

Rivera y Damas deplored the fact that "in a highly polarized and politicized atmosphere such as ours, some voices are raised to criticize our work, which we try to conduct with rectitude." He also regretted attempts to divide the bishops.

The archbishop said that with the assumption of power on 1 June by ARENA (Nationalist Republican Alliance], which "represents the extreme right, it is obvious that the situation could worsen." However, he expressed hope that this will not occur.

Finally, Msgr Rivera y Damas announced that next Tuesday the Archbishopric's Legal Assistance Office will receive a human rights award from "a prestigious organization in Washington."

Coprefa Reports Arms Seizure, Other Actions

PA2205000889 San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 19 May 89 pp 3, 38

[Text] San Miguel—Soldiers from the 3d Infantry Brigade have seized powerful weapons, including an 81-mm mortar, a large quantity of ammunition, and material to make explosives in San Miguel and Chalatenango Departments.

According to Coprefa [Armed Forces Press Committee] spokesmen, 3d Infantry Brigade troops found the weapons in rural areas of San Miguel and Chalatenango Departments, where the terrorists have been detected.

Coprefa disclosed that 3d Brigade soldiers found five AR-15 and three M-16 rifles with clips and ammunition in an FMLN-FDR [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front - Revolutionary Democratic Front] hideout in El Picacho, Chapeltique jurisdiction. The troops also found 10 yards of olive green fabric; it is probably used to make uniforms similar to those worn by Armed Forces members.

Colonel Mauricio Ernesto Vargas, commander of the 3d Infantry Brigade, said that it has been recently discovered that terrorists often wear these uniforms to commit all kinds of abuses that they later blame on the Army.

Members of the Paratrooper Battalion reported that they found more than 300 rifle cartridges, including 190 for the Soviet-made AK-47, 10 mines, 5 fragmentation grenades, 21 knapsacks containing civilian clothes and food, and 20 oilskin ponchos.

Meanwhile, troops of the Canas Battalion, which is part of the 5th Infantry Brigade headquartered in San Vicente Department, reported that they defused five mines that subversives had placed in El Marquezado, Tecoluca jurisdiction.

The Artillery Brigade announced that Catalino Lopez Consuegra, an FMLN fighter, surrendered to the Artillery Brigade. Lopez Consuegra said that there are many terrorists who want to abandon the struggle, but they do not do so because of death threats that communist leaders have made against them and their relatives.

Military sources disclosed that 15-year-old Jose Jaime Quintanilla lost his left foot and an eye when a terrorist mine exploded. He was on his way to the fields in Tapesquillo Abajo, Jucuapa jurisdiction, Usulutan Department when the mine exploded.

Army Discovers 18 Dead 'Guerrillas'
PA2005212189 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 20 May 89

[Text] The Army today confirmed the discovery of 18 bodies of guerrillas who participated in an attack on the Army on 10 May in La Paz Department. The Armed Forces engineers instruction center reported that after a skirmish in San Pedro Nonualco, the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Fro[illegible] abandoned its dead comrades and their military gear o[illegible] the banks of Jiboa River.

In other actions, the Army reported one soldier killed and another wounded in a guerrilla ambush against a military convoy in the vicinity of San Isidro, Cabanas Department. The incident occurred this morning when soldiers from the Military Detachment No 2 were heading for Sesuntepeque.

ARENA Deputies Rescind Legislators' Raise
PA2105234989 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 20 May 89

[Report by Mauricio Funez]

[Excerpts] Thirty-two ARENA [Nationalist Republican Alliance] Legislative Assembly deputies this evening rescinded a salary increase for legislators that was approved last week. The ARENA decision was criticized by the PDC [Christian Democratic Party], PCN [National Conciliation Party], and MAC [Authentic Christian Movement], which see this as a bad precedent that will have negative consequences for the assembly.

The agreement should have been approved at yesterday's assembly session. However, it seems that conditions were not right to support the motion presented by Deputy Francisco Guerrero. Following a lengthy recess, the ARENA deputies voted this evening to rescind the pay increase, which raised the deputies' salary by 2,000 colones per month. [passage omitted]

The MAC, PCN, and PDC deputies, who are now in the opposition, are convinced that ARENA's decision is a political decision made by the party's leadership. Thus, what seems to be a legal decision is, in fact, a political position that could indicate the future action of the Legislative Assembly's major party. [passage omitted]

Guatemala

National Police Spokesman Removed From Office
FL1905194089 Guatemala City LA PRENSA in Spanish 17 May 89 p 6

[Text] Guatemalan President Vinicio Cerezo Arevalo yesterday hinted that National Police spokesman Carlos Chen had been removed from office because of his participation in the destabilizing movements.

During a news conference held in his office, the president said that "a few changes in the National Police were made and some reorganization was necessary; now we have proven that we did not remove the person responsible for public relations or the general director for administrative reasons but for other reasons that became obvious during the recent attempted coup."

"In other words, there were some irregularities in the management of the National Police and there were serious suspicions that they were not doing their duty. In addition there was a break in the chain of command," Cerezo added.

Likewise, the president said that the new director will be appointed some time this week. Following his appointment, we will be able to determine whether there has been an increase in the crime rate or whether the SIPROCI [Civil Protection System] has been able to achieve good results in its attempts to provide more protection for the people.

The president refrained from giving the name of the new National Police director or to say whether he is a soldier or a civilian.

ORPA Rebels Massacre Hamlet To Obtain Weapons
PA2005205189 Guatemala City Cadena de Emisoras Unidas in Spanish 1300 GMT 20 May 89

[Text] The Guatemalan Army's official spokesman, Colonel Jose Arturo Isaacs, said that the Guatemalan Army holds ORPA [Revolutionary Organization of the

People in Arms] responsible for the massacre carried out at the Sunquin - Iztapa hamlet. Isaacs confirmed that ORPA is now operating in that area.

He added that ORPA is looking for weapons, because its international logistical support has been cut off. ORPA's members in Sunquin looked for weapons and killed people when they did not find the weapons they were seeking.

The Army spokesman said that while previously there have been no armed conflicts in Chimaltenango Department, now ORPA is operating there. ORPA is carrying out highway robbery to obtain money and weapons. Col Isaacs said: On this occasion, ORPA used a house that was far away from the other houses in the hamlet and killed one of its occupants. That person's relatives sought help from the self-defense groups and, when the commissioner's assistant arrived, he found that the other people had been killed in the massacre.

Isaacs added that as a result of those actions, the Army increased its operations in the area. In the past, the Army only visited that area, but, following this attack, we are conducting a heavy military operation, Isaacs explained. Similarly, Col Isaacs said that this massacre has nothing to do with the one carried out at El Aguacate, although he admitted that ORPA is carrying out a number of actions in the region in order to survive.

* MAS's Serrano Named Presidential Candidate

32480120d Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 9 Apr 89 p 4

[Text] At a meeting of the rank and file that was held yesterday in the party academy in Zone 10, the Solidary Action Movement (MAS) acclaimed Engineer Jorge Serrano Elias as its presidential candidate and announced that it is capable of participating in the next election contest alone, without alliances.

Engineer Serrano, the party's [congressional] deputy, Miguel Angel Montepeque, and the organization's political campaign chief, Jose Eduardo Rottman Ruiz, attended the political rally.

In the statement MAS issued late yesterday afternoon, it indicated that the rank and file had reached definitive agreement in proclaiming Engineer Serrano Elias to be their presidential candidate.

They said that, after analyzing the situation, the department coordinators decided to back the presidential candidacy of Engineer Serrano because he is an effective statesman and represents the people's interests.

* PAN Applies for Political Party Status

32480120c Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 4 Apr 89 p 4

[Text] Engineer Carlos Valle, the leader of the National Vanguard Party (PAN), yesterday confirmed the fact that at 1100 hours today the new political party will apply for registration as a public corporation in the Civil Register.

He said that PAN had finished organizing its local cells in the interior of the country as required by the Election and Political Parties Law. The application will be accompanied by the appropriate certifications that prove that the organization now has the local cells needed to become a new party.

Engineer Valle noted that, simultaneously with its action in connection with registration, PAN will proceed with the swearing-in of its local cells in the country's 327 municipalities, a task that will no doubt be concluded by the middle of this year.

He emphasized that the party is viewed with sympathy by the various national sectors, which are of the opinion that PAN constitutes a new, hope-inspiring option.

As concerns the presidential candidacy of the mayor of the city, Alvaro Arzu Irigoyen, Engineer Valle said that the party will prepare for the obligatory convention once registration is completed.

"We," he emphasized, "believe that Mayor Arzu is the man the country needs to guide the country in the directions it will be moving in. His efforts on behalf of the municipality give us an idea of what he will be able to do when he is president of the country."

Party Officially Authorized

FL1905175189 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 18 May 89 p 8

[Summary] The National Advance Party [Partido de Avanzada Nacional—PAN] has been officially authorized to function as a new political party, according to PAN Secretary General Luis Alberto Flores. Other party officers are: Carlos Valle, secretary for party branches; Chiqui de Eggenberger, director for public relations; and Arabella Castro de Comparini, secretary for legal affairs. The PAN will campaign for Guatemala City Mayor Alvaro Arzu Irigoyen as its presidential candidate.

* National Dialogue Begins With Search for Agenda

32480120a Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 13 Apr 89 pp 6, 35

[Excerpt] The Commission for Democratization and Political Affairs was inducted yesterday at a ceremony held at the headquarters of the National Reconciliation Commission (CNR), whereupon the discussion of proposals for the national dialogue was opened.

The ceremony began with the introduction of the members of the CNR by executive secretary Eduardo P. Villatoro. This was followed by a few words of welcome from journalist Tere Bolanos de Zarco.

Engineer Jorge Serrano Elias delivered a brief explanation of the procedures and rules for the dialogue. After that, there were a few words of welcome from Guatemalan Vice President and CNR member, Roberto Carpio Nicolle.

The delegates to the abovementioned commission were sworn in by Monsignor Juan Gerardi, representing CNR chairman Monsignor Rodolfo Quezada Toruno, who could not attend.

To conclude the ceremony, Colonel Francisco Luis Gordillo and Dr Mario Permuth chaired a session held after the swearing-in during which the board of directors of the newly inducted commission was elected. [passage omitted]

* CNR's Initiation of National Dialog Noted

32480120e Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 13 Apr 89 p 10

[Editorial: "A Vitamin Shot for the Reconciliation Commission"]

[Excerpts] Early yesterday afternoon, with a brief welcome address, the CNR installed in office the Democratization and Political Affairs Commission, whose title allows for the ad libitum introduction of as many problems and situations as the participants may imagine.

The democratization agenda may be so extensive and unworkable that the people's parliamentary representatives will never reach viable conclusions, that is, conclusions that can be dealt with and implemented.

This is why the CNR's appeal to the participants to work with their sights fixed on the highest interests of the nation and to set aside political and trade union partisanism was appropriate. A difficult request to satisfy, of course, in view of the heightened politicalization—and polarization—of the people of Guatemala. [passage omitted]

There is no point in saying at this point in time whether the national dialogue will be of much value or any value at all. Any a priori judgment ought to be avoided. We have to wait for the lists of requests or demands that will be the highpoint of the process.

In any event, the CNR has accomplished the mission it was entrusted with. The dialogue has begun. We will see how it turns out.

One fact should be emphasized. For the first time in Guatemalan history, a meeting of this sort is generating the economic and moral support of the accredited diplomatic corps in Guatemala. This will give the CNR the opportunity to pursue its task, as it has up to now, without the financial support of the Guatemalan Government.

Taking the lead in this support is Spain, whose embassy has offered an initial contribution of $20,000. This is a vitamin shot that should not be interpreted as approval of the participants in the dialogue. It is merely an expression of confidence in the CNR, whose competence is unquestionable.

* Agrarian Reform Reaches 5,000 Families

32480120b Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 13 Apr 89 p 30

[Text] The 10,000-hectare San Diego Yalpemech estate in Chisec, Altaverapaz is to be turned over to the National Agrarian Reform Institute (INTA) for its disposition. For this reason, a study of the land has already been delivered to the president of the institute, Engineer Nery Orlando Samayoa Barrios, it has been officially announced.

On the basis of the land study delivered to Samayoa Barrios, it was indicated that on this land they plan to settle 5,000 families who will be provided with basic services like drinking water, access roads, and minimal housing, for which financing in the amount of 6 million quetzales will be needed.

Engineer Samayoa Barrios announced that INTA, with the support of other public sector agencies and, primarily, of the Ministry of Development, will be responsible for the process of settling the families on the estate in question.

Engineers Hector Lima, Edgar Rodas, Jose Us Vicente, Rene Molina Sierra, Edwin Samayoa, and Dr Carlos Marroquin, who are members of INTA, and the Ministry of Development were responsible for conducting the study of the land.

Honduras

Commentary Sees OAS as Inefficient, Weak

FL1905153989 Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network in Spanish 1145 GMT 18 May 89

["Current Topics" feature]

[Text] For some time now, the OAS has been an organization that has only been good for using the fees paid by member states to support its international staff at the Pan-American Union Building in Washington. Also at a very high cost, the governments of the continent have ambassadors and mission representatives accredited to the OAS; however, the member states do not reap too many positive results from the organization.

Following the incidents in Panama unleashed by a fraudulent election in which the government sector and the Panama Defense Forces headed by General Manuel Antonio Noriega imposed their will, the OAS consultative body was summoned to hear the Panamanian case and supposedly ensure that the people's will, expressed in the elections, would be respected.

In Washington yesterday, the foreign ministers of the OAS member states began an emergency meeting to study a draft resolution, introduced by Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Jamaica, Peru, the Dominican Republic, Uruguay, and Venezuela, calling for the creation of a commission of three Latin American foreign ministers to travel to Panama to mediate between the Panamanian Government and the opposition to solve the political crisis that developed following the 7 May elections.

When the world heard what had happened in Panama on the day of the elections, when the international television stations and newspapers carried photographs showing the world the savage actions of civilians, members of the so-called Dignity Battalions, who armed with clubs and iron rods, beat the defenseless supporters of the opposition, the rage was such that several heads of state immediately spoke out in anger against the government led by Noriega in the hopes that their protests would create a chain of reaction throughout the continent and that everyone would condemn the Panamanian regime and exert pressure for the results of the election to be respected.

These were individual protests. Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez, Guatemalan President Vinicio Cerezo, Honduran President Jose Azcona, Colombian President Virgilio Barco, to mention only a few Latin American presidents, condemned the election process in Panama. But once the foreign ministers of the continent got together, they again demonstrated how fragile the OAS really is; the tepid manner in which problems are broached and, why not say it, the weakness of an organization that is practically inoperative.

Appointing a commission to investigate the matter is only drawing things out. The OAS resolution gives the Panamanian regime a breather; it gives it a chance to prepare and show the commission what it feels the commission should see. After the investigation, the commission will prepare a report and another meeting will be called. At that time, the report submitted by the commission will be studied and another resolution, which we are sure will be worthless, will be issued.

Simply condemning shameful actions and pointing out that they could create a delicate situation for Panamanian life is just not enough in the Panamanian case. They should have been stronger and punished the government that has attacked the will of the people. For Gen Noriega, what happened yesterday in Washington is easier than restraining the thousands of Panamanian citizens who have taken to the streets to protest the mockery he subjected them to not only when he changed the results of the elections but also when these were nullified by the Electoral Tribunal.

The OAS has once again demonstrated its weakness, inoperativeness, and inefficiency, and those protests independently voiced by some presidents, some of them from this continent, were added to a resolution that will now become another piece of paper in the OAS file.

That was expected. No one gave much importance to the consultation meeting and many observers even predicted that the foreign ministers would travel to Washington to have a good time. The problem between Nicaragua and Honduras could not be handled by the OAS; it was left in the hands of the Contadora and Support Groups and the regional gatherings known as the Esquipulas meetings. The foreign debt of the member states has never been discussed at the OAS nor has the organization ever suggested that a continental position be adopted that would help strengthen the poor countries that are fighting poverty and burdened with their debt payments. Therefore, the OAS is only a name; it is now part of our America's history. Annuled elections and the will of a military chief who holds the real power in Panama are the dam that blocks the way of those who wave democratic banners throughout the American Continent.

IMF Deal, Economic Bill Approval Expected

FL1905151089 Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network in Spanish 1650 GMT 17 May 89

[Press conference by Carlos Orbin Montoya, president of the National Congress, with unidentified reporters; from the National Congress in Tegucigalpa—live]

[Excerpts] [Reporter] Will the congress approve the economic emergency bill?

[Montoya] I believe so. The decree will make it possible to obtain the funds the AID promised and will allow us to keep the pending lines of credit with Japan, which could amount to 50 million [currency not specified] now and 50 million later. It is urgent and necessary. Some officials have held ideas opposed to ours, opposed to what was agreed upon in the draft decree during a special session with the president of the Republic. However, in the end, under the guidance of Lic Carlos Falck, we are awaiting the response from the IMF and the World Bank to Honduras' position in order to reach an agreement. [passage omitted]

[Reporter] Dr Montoya, are we on the verge of an economic collapse as claimed by economist "Meme" Acosta Bonilla?

[Montoya] No, I think Mr "Meme" has been seeing these collapses for a long time as a result of a failed system that he himself introduced. The populist system in which the state financed everything and owned most of the means

of production was a failure. [passage omitted] The deficiencies of this system can only be corrected by making the government smaller. We are not on the verge of collapse. We are dealing with the problems caused by a world financial crisis and we are doing well. To date, Honduras has a good image. Honduras has very good bilateral relations. We are solving a problem with the IMF that every other country has. [passage omitted]

[Reporter] How do you then explain the report from the American Embassy which is perhaps even more critical than that of Manuel Acosta Bonilla?

[Montoya] I have read the embassy's report in a newspaper. The main point is that the measures should have been taken earlier. We have all said the same thing. However, in Honduras people give the Central Bank more (?importance) than all the ministries. The Central Bank adopted the absurd premise that the lempira had to be maintained at all costs. The only result was that we lost reserve capital. Those who can get dollars out continue to do so. No one invests in a country that cannot assure a free exchange. No one is going to come to Honduras to invest a million dollars, two to one, and then in 5 years' time not know how much return he is going to get on his investment. [passage omitted]

[Reporter] What is going to happen with the National Party? Have you negotiated or discussed with them so that the party will rejoin you in the decision to pass the economic emergency decree?

[Montoya] Well, the truth is that they have promised not to oppose it. They say they will abstain and let it become the responsibility of the Liberal government. I feel they are acting correctly and positively by not opposing the economic measures and allowing us to assume the risks entailed in this type of decision and to make the decision. And, we are ready to make the decision.

[Reporter] Is then there a probability of reaching a short-term accord with the IMF, with a united congress and a consolidated executive?

[Montoya] [Passage omitted] Yes, the arrangement can be reached this month with the IMF and the World Bank. Once the arrangement is reached, we will approve the decree in congress. [passage omitted]

Nicaragua

Ortega: No More 'Senseless' Opposition Talks

PA1905142889 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1235 GMT 19 May 89

[Text] Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega warned yesterday in Niquinohomo that the government is not willing to grant more concessions to the Nicaraguan opposition parties.

Ortega also reported that a discrediting campaign against Nicaragua was conducted during his European tour.

Ortega said: The gringos' efforts were stymied by the European governments' decisions.

Ortega made the above statements during a ceremony commemorating the 94th anniversary of General Augusto C. Sandino's birth.

[Begin Ortega recording] I want to state here that we are not willing to continue participating in senseless discussions with the opposition parties.

They must begin working immediately on the challenge they have to face if they believe they have national support. They must act according to the Constitution. They must [word indistinct] begin working with the election process in mind.

We will continue with the election process, but we cannot spend all our time in discussions with the opposition parties. In this election process, we cannot hold the kind of discussions we held before the November 1984 elections. [Words indistinct] discussions [words indistinct] negotiations. [Words indistinct] and say this country is taking the wrong direction and has been taught the wrong things.

The opposition parties must understand that this little game is over. [end recording]

More on Ortega Speech

PA1905215189 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 2015 GMT 19 May 89

["Excerpt" of speech by President Daniel Ortega at ceremony to commemorate the late General Augusto Cesar Sandino's 94th birthday at Noquinohomo on 18 May—recorded]

[Text] When British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher concluded her speech, she said she would not go to Stockholm. I said that I perfectly understood that the United States was exerting great pressure so European countries would not attend the Stockholm meeting. What does the United States want? It wants the Nicaraguan people to starve to death! What does the Somozist National Guard's newspaper, LA PRENSA, want? It wants the Nicaraguan people to starve to death? What do the COSEP [Higher Council of Private Enterprise] people want? They want the people to starve to death! What do the Somozist parties in the opposition want? They want the people to starve to death! They care little for the people!

They talk on behalf of the people, but when one tries to get something for the people, they start a campaign to counter any efforts. Why? Because they are not starving. Do the people of the Somozist newspaper say they are starving? How much do they spend on their trips? Those

people make those trips only to ask for more death for the Nicaraguan people; they do not request more aid for the Nicaraguan people. Those COSEP people are always traveling. That organization is a Somozist instrument. When the people of the Somozists' LA PRENSA travel, when the people of the parties [words indistict] nothing more than Somozist parties, which formed an alliance with the Somozist Guard in Guatemala, and which continue to meet with the Somozist Guard abroad. What do they want? They want the Nicaraguan people to suffer and starve!

I told Mrs Thatcher: I know the United States is exerting a lot of pressure so no one will attend the Stockholm meeting, so the United States will be able to say: The Stockholm meeting failed; no one attended the meeting; no European country attended the meeting. LA PRENSA would then report: There was no meeting in Stockholm; Daniel Ortega returns without a cent. That is a victory for them! Of course it is a victory for them, because they think like Somozists. They do not realize that, in any case, this is a blow to the Nicaraguan people, not to Daniel Ortega or any given person. The blow is felt by the Nicaraguan people.

When I told Mrs Thatcher: Yes, I understand that the United States is exerting a lot of pressure. She answered: No, no one exerts pressure on me. We had a constructive meeting because she said: I promise you that I will follow my own guidelines concerning Nicaragua and the guidelines will be just and equitable. She used those words.

When we visited other countries we found that they fully support the measures we are taking, the economic and political measures we have taken. We found that they fully and unanimously supported us. This should be quite clear because some people think the European governments twisted my arm during our trip to Europe, and these people are waiting for new concessions. There will be no new concessions! The Somozist Guard's newspaper—and parties that want to participate in the elections—should clearly understand that. There will be no further concessions. The reforms to the laws have already been made—and that is that!

Political Parties Granted Legal Status

PA2005031589 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 18 May 89 p 5

["Note" issued by the Presidential Press and Information Directorate in Managua on 17 May]

[Text] The Presidential Press and Information Directorate reports to the Nicaraguan people that:

The president of the Republic, Commander of the Revolution Daniel Ortega Saavedra, has learned that the Nicaraguan Democratic Movement, the Revolutionary Unity Movement, the National Unity Liberal Party, the Social Conservatism Party, and the Conservative People's Alliance have been granted legal status by the National Council of Political Parties. Seeking to strengthen the parties' participation in the election process, a letter has been sent to each of the parties' legal representatives asking them to send a list of citizens who are eligible for the three-name list that will be submitted to the National Assembly so it may select the members and alternate members of the Supreme Electoral Council, in accordance with Article 6 of the Electoral Law and its reforms dated 23 April 1989.

The deadline for sending the lists is 1 June, and the deadline has been extended for the political parties whose lists had been requested on 25 April.
Managua, 17 May 1989
Year of the 10th anniversary
Presidential Press and Information Directorate

CNPP Denies Others Status

PA2105005689 Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 18 May 89 pp 1, 12

[Report by Roger Suarez M.]

[Text] The Nicaraguan National Council of Political Parties [CNPP], controlled by the Sandinist party, has denied legal status to five opposition parties, including the Christian Democratic Party [Partido Democrata Cristiano, PDC], led by Agustin Jarquin, and the Conservative National Unity Party [Partido Union Nacional Conservadora, PUNC], led by Silviano Matamoros—which are considered the strongest opposition parties.

Also denied legal status were the former Liberal Party (PALI), which requested its legal status under the name of Authentic Liberal Party [Partido Liberal Autentico, PLA]; the Central American Integrationist Party, led by Alejandro Perez Arevalo; and the Social Christian Unity Party [Partido Unidad Social Cristiana], led by Eduardo Rivas Gasteazoro. A progovernment paper reported today that "five parties passed the test while five others failed." The paper, however, did not mention that the institution that decided the parties' legal status is controlled by the Sandinists.

The CNPP granted legal status to the Liberal Party for National Unity, the Movement of Revolutionary Unity, the Social Conservative Party [Partido Social Conservatismo], the Nicaraguan Democratic Movement, and the Popular Conservative Alliance [Alianza Popular Conservadora], led by Myriam Arguello.

Opposition leaders interviewed this morning said they do not oppose parties outside Nicaragua obtaining legal status. "It is paradoxical that the parties that have remained inside Nicaragua and have broad support are denied their legal status."

The Sandinists want to create an atmosphere of uncertainty and distrust within the opposition by not granting legal status to all opposition parties, an opposition

member said. The same opposition member, who requested not to be identified, added: "Legal status is granted to weak parties but not to the strong ones."

Myriam Arguello of the Popular Conservative Alliance, which obtained its legal status, said: "I believe all opposition parties that requested their legal status must receive it. By denying them that right, the authorities are not contributing to the country's democratization process."

CNPP President Hugo Mejia informed the various parties individually of the CNPP ruling. The parties were informed of the CNPP decision orally, but a written document will be issued in the next few hours.

Silviano Matamoros said: "That decision will affect the Sandinist Front's image abroad." Matamoros added that he does not rule out the possibility that the Sandinist Front is using that tactic to force the strongest opposition parties to negotiate their legal status with the authorities. Matamoros said: "The Sandinist Front members are making a mistake by thinking that they can blackmail us or that we will negotiate under the table."

This morning, we learned Matamoros' PUNC, which belongs to the Conservative International, will denounce the Sandinist government's arbitrary decision before that international organization. Agustin Jarquin, who will leave for Europe next week, will report the Sandinist government's refusal to grant legal status to his party, the PDC.

PDC Vice President Chester Guevara said the Sandinist government is denying legal status to two large parties, the PDC and the PUNC, which have broad national and international support.

Guevara added: "By denying legal status to political parties, the Nicaraguan Government is failing to abide by the El Salvador agreement."

PLA Vice President Jorge Ramirez said representatives of the political parties that are disliked by the Sandinist Front and that were not granted legal status met this morning to study the situation.

Commenting on the reports published by the progovernment papers, which stated the PLA was denied its legal status because it has many Somozist members, Ramirez said the party with the largest number of Somozist members is the Sandinist Front, and he mentioned the names of several high-ranking officials who have proven links with the previous regime.

The opposition parties rejected by the CNPP have 3 days—after receiving a written document notifying them of the decision—to appeal before the CNPP. If the CNPP rejects the opposition parties' appeals, the parties can use their last recourse, which is to present a writ of amparo before the Supreme Court of Justice, which is also controlled by the ruling party.

After that, the sole recourse the opposition has is to go to a national dialogue, which the Sandinist Front has been evading for over a year, because the Sandinist Front knows it cannot control the situation so easily there.

Commentary on Sandinists Role

PA2105173389 Managua Radio Corporacion in Spanish 2300 GMT 19 May 89

[Station commentary: "Sandinists Entangle Whatever They Cannot Win"]

[Text] For every three steps they take, the Sandinists take one step backward and two steps forward. The Sandinists have played this little game for the past 10 years. This is how they have crushed the church, the private sector, labor unions, and political parties.

The Sandinists offered to do many things at the presidential summit in El Salvador, never intending to comply with whatever the presidents agreed upon. The Sandinists said that they and the opposition would determine the date on which the elections would be held. Since their return to Nicaragua from that summit, all the Sandinists have done is to try to force the elections to be held on the date they already had in mind, thus denying the opposition parties the opportunity to strengthen their ranks and to exert their full efforts.

The Sandinists talked about an electoral law, but that law remains unchanged, although they claim to have made significant reforms. The new media law was drafted in such a way that it has many more limitations than the previous one. The Sandinists, however, have gone too far with their most recent move. They made that move without considering the political price they might have to pay for their actions and the possible loss of their image both domestically and abroad. The Sandinists' highest priority is to hold on to power, to weaken the opposition as much as possible, or to eliminate it if possible.

The Sandinists have denied legal status to the Conservative Party of Nicaragua, the most respected and strongest party in the country, which is led by Silviano Matamoros. The Sandinists have also denied legal status to the Social Christian Party, the third-ranking party in terms of the number of voters, which is led by [Agustin] Jarquin Anaya and [Eduardo] Rivas Gasteazoro. As if that were not enough, the Sandinists have also denied legal status to the Liberal Party of Nicaragua and other parties.

With such actions, the Sandinists have tried to kill several birds with one stone. They believe that by eliminating the PCN and the PSC, it would be much easier to defeat the remaining parties. They are wrong. The Sandinists fear opposition unity. They are trying to destroy that unity, but the truth is that that unity will be there with or without the opposition parties' legal status, because the main goal is to save Nicaragua.

We have seen the Nicaraguan president, I mean the vice president, on television contemptuously refer to two of the five negotiators of the 15 [as heard] opposition parties. He said that these parties were illegal. The Sandinists are finding it difficult to disguise their strategy. Even a blind man can see through them without the aid of the braille system. The Sandinists' trick was so clumsy that they were left totally exposed. The Sandinists' attempt at deception reveals their fear of the united opposition's growing momentum.

This is the area in which the Sandinists will make their greatest effort. For this reason, they have rushed to grant legal status to all parties that do not represent any danger to them. They have tried to spread the opposition thin by approving all of these parties. They have tried to find all sorts of loopholes, such as the type of flag, the logotype and its size, the phrasing of a sentence or the choice of word or two in the parties' statutes, and on and on and on, to deny legal status to some parties. When it suits the Sandinists' interests, they approve parties' legal status. When their interests are not served, they disapprove parties' legal status. The Sandinists are now gathering strength to dissolve the unity of the majority parties, trying to brush them aside to pave the way for a Sandinist victory.

The Sandinists know that if they fail to eliminate these majority parties, the FSLN [Sandinist National Liberation Front] will lose the elections for sure. The FSLN believes that if it succeeds in neutralizing these forces, then it will win. Does the FSLN think that the world will accept tricks like these, that new money needed for rehabilitation will be given to the country, that all the Western democratic countries will fall for these tricks? They are completely engulfed by this error. The 10 years of their mandate have shown that Sandinism is exhausted, that it has nothing left to offer, that its best days are through. If the Sandinists truly intend to continue to exist as a political force, they must hold free elections, practice true political pluralism, and accept the election results. They cannot win by force. Only with votes, in an honest and free election process, will the FSLN attest its power and popularity.

Factions To Meet in Guatemala

PA2105194589 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 20 May 89

[Text] All Social Christian factions may participate in the elections as a bloc. Guatemalan President Vinicio Cerezo invited the leaders of Nicaragua's Social Christian groups to Guatemala, where they will try to reach an agreement to unite as a single front for the February 1990 elections. The meeting with the Guatemalan president, to be held this weekend in that country, is to try to overcome the differences among these parties. These differences emerged following the National Council of Political Parties' denial of legal status for the Social Christian Party factions led by Eduardo Rivas Gasteazoro and Augustin Jarquin Anaya for failing to meet the requirements. It is felt that the Social Christian factions led by Rivas Gasteazoro and Jarquin may join Erick Ramirez [PSC president] to participate as a single front in the upcoming elections, thereby dashing Jarquin's plans of founding another Social or Christian Democratic Party.

Social Christian politicians are traveling to Guatemala in an attempt to unite all factions. Mauricio Diaz, leader of the opposition Popular Social Christian Party, feels that the personal differences among the country's Social Christians must be overcome during this meeting in Guatemala. Diaz declined to blame anyone for the CNPP's refusal to grant legal status to Agustin Jarquin's faction. The Social Christians will try to settle this matter in Guatemala by reuniting all Social Christians.

[Begin recording] [Diaz] It is not that we are seeking Cerezo's help to resolve this situation. Instead, given Cerezo's leading role in Central America and that some groups have not yet decided to return to Nicaragua, we need his support to hold the meeting. Cerezo's presence and moral support may help us overcome differences that go way back and that primarily are the result of personal rather than ideological conflicts. I reiterate that the problem with Nicaragua's Social Christians is not one of differences in ideology and does not regard a political platform; instead these differences stem from the leaders' personal views, since some seek a leading role while others have a messianic attitude. There have been many conflicts, with which you are more familiar than I am.

[Reporter] Augustin Jarquin, leader of the PSC faction that was denied legal status, blamed Erick Ramirez' PSC. Was this why the government did not grant it legal status? Your party is also in the CNPP. How can one explain this?

[Diaz] We, as a party, believe that all of the country's political parties are entitled to legal status. We have been calling ourselves the Popular Social Christian Party since 1976, not after the Sandinist revolution. We also felt that the problem with the CNPP would be easily overcome if the parties reached an internal agreement. However, there was none. I think that the meeting will help us overcome these difficulties. Who is to blame and who is not to blame? I am not the one to judge. I want all of the factions to meet to set aside past differences, to overcome them, and to adopt a more pragmatic and realistic attitude as we face the forthcoming elections, which are almost here. [end recording]

Soviet Official Comments on Military Aid

PA2005172889 Managua Sistema Sandinista Television Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 19 May 89

[Report by News Director Javier Reyes Alba on statements by Ivan Anastasyevich Burlyay, deputy chief of the Soviet Foreign Ministry's Latin America Department; date and place not given]

[Text] The Soviet Foreign Ministry today denounced the U.S. propagandistic campaign against Soviet military

aid to Nicaragua. The campaign is considered an obstacle for the negotiation process in the Central American area. Burlyay, deputy chief of the USSR Foreign Ministry's Latin America Department, referred to the issue:

[Begin Burlyay recording] Several Soviet advisers are in Nicaragua [words indistinct]. They will be there for as long as the Sandinist government considers their presence necessary. The Nicaraguan Government is a sovereign state [words indistinct], which has the right to decide on the presence of foreign advisers in its national territory. [end recording]

The Soviet official said that his government issued a specific proposal to the United States concerning the search for a solution to the Central American conflict:

[Begin Burlyay recording] Referring to Soviet military aid to Nicaragua during the USSR-U.S. summit meeting held in Washington in December 1987, we presented our proposal for the bilateral reduction of arms supplies—both by the United States and the Soviet Union—to all Central American countries. However, the United States has refused to accept the proposal; it has not accepted our proposal. [end recording]

The proposal was reiterated in Moscow during U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's recent visit. The Soviet Foreign Ministry pointed out that international news agencies only question the USSR's compliance with the agreement, without mentioning the United States—which provides military aid to Honduras and El Salvador.

OAS Meeting Termed 'Yankee Setback'

PA2105133189 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 19 May 89 p 3

[Editorial: "The Yankee Setback at the OAS"]

[Text] With the OAS approval of a resolution on the Panamanian crisis, which is both constructive and calls for solidarity, Latin American sovereignty prevailed yesterday through the unanimous support for the principle of nonintervention and the unanimous rejection of any kind of pressure, blackmail, or manipulations by the U.S. Government.

The resolution, approved by concensus, was strengthened by Nicaragua's proposal to include paragraph six, urging all states to refrain from taking any action that would go against the principle of nonintervention in the internal affairs of other states; this was approved by consensus despite strong U.S. opposition.

The OAS resolution, which contains seven points, was voted on paragraph by paragraph and, in its first whereas clause—drafted in response to a Salvadoran initiative—mentioned General Manuel A. Noriega [commander in chief of the Panama Defense Forces] by name. Nicaragua objected to this on the grounds that only Panamanians can solve their internal problems and that Latin America must adhere to the Group of Eight's declaration issued on 10 May 1989, which stated that judgments should not be made on the causes of the Panamanian political crisis.

It was this paragraph—and not the resolution in its entirety—that Nicaragua and Panama voted against. In spirit, the OAS resolution is consistent with the principles upheld by Nicaragua, because the resolution proposes that a Latin American agreement be reached for a peaceful political solution for Panama. The resolution is positive because it is constructive and upholds the principle of nonintervention.

The United States is the country that has been isolated. Nicaragua voted with Latin America against intervention. However, it was the U.S., Costa Rican, and Venezuelan Governments that did not vote with Latin America and the Caribbean when confronted with Nicaragua's proposed amendment on noninterference. They were left with no alternative but to abstain from voting. Voting against would have meant openly opposing all the countries on the continent, and that is a cost which the United States has been unwilling to pay.

Therefore, no one is surprised that in Managua, the newspaper LA PRENSA—the Yankee and Somozist guardsmen's mouthpiece—awkwardly joined the U.S. campaign to try to disguise its defeat at the OAS by distorting what really happened at the foreign ministers meeting. What is so shameful and despicable about this is the attempt by interventionists to redefine the principle of self-determination to allow the Yankees to intervene.

Tinoco Reports on OAS Meeting on Panama

PA2005192289 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1833 GMT 20 May 89

[Text] Managua, 20 May (EFE)—Nicaraguan Vice Foreign Minister Victor Hugo Tinoco said in Managua today that after the OAS meeting to discuss the crisis in Panama, "the threat of a U.S. military intervention against Panama continues."

The Sandinist official said that in the 4-hour meeting of foreign ministers in Washington, Nicaragua proposed that the OAS not adopt any measure that would mean intervening in Panama's internal affairs.

Tinoco stressed that this paragraph—which forms part of the resolution issued by the consultative meeting during which, for the first time, there were no speeches [as received]—was approved by 21 votes and with the abstention of the United States.

"This abstention means that the United States still reserves the right to militarily intervene in Panama," Tinoco said today in a news conference upon his return from Washington.

According to Tinoco, the OAS position that no measure should be adopted that would mean intervention in the domestic affairs of other countries continues to be upheld by the Latin American nations despite "many pressures" from the United States.

In their meeting, the foreign ministers also agreed to send a special delegation to Panama to include the foreign ministers of Ecuador, Guatemala, and Trinidad and Tobago, and OAS Secretary General Joao Baena Soares. It will attempt "to help and to mediate" between the parties in conflict in Panama in order to reach an understanding.

"The OAS foreign ministers delegation is not to go to Panama to say who won the elections, because that would mean meddling in Panama's domestic affairs. Instead, it will try to help the Panamanians reach an agreement and decide what will be done over the next few months," Tinoco said.

On 6 June, the special delegation, which will provide its "services and support," will draft a report in Washington, indicating "whether there has been progress in solving the crisis or whether something more can be done," Tinoco said.

Bayardo Arce Meets With Palestinian Official

FL1905181489 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 16 May 89 p 5

[Excerpt] Commander Bayardo Arce Castano, vice coordinator of the FSLN [Sandinist National Liberation Front] executive commission, met yesterday with Comrade Salah Abdel Hamin Zakul [name as published], member of the foreign affairs department of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] and its representative in Moscow.

In greeting the PFLP representative at the FSLN National Directorate's secretariat, Commander Arce said that this visit will help to "strengthen the ties of friendship" and to exchange information to bring the relations between the two parties up to date.

In brief statements to the press, Commander Arce reiterated his trust in the struggle of the Palestinian people and recognized the right of that nation to have an independent state free of the Israeli Army's occupation. [passage omitted]

Ortega Congratulates Argentine President-Elect

PA2105200789 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 19 May 89 p 5

[Letter from President Daniel Ortega to Argentine President-elect Carlos Saul Menem; date and place not given]

[Text] Mr Carlos Saul Menem
Victorious candidate in the Argentine elections
Buenos Aires
Dear Comrade:

On behalf of the Sandinist National Liberation Front, the Nicaraguan people and government, and myself, I sincerely congratulate you on your well-deserved electoral victory on 14 May.

We are certain that you and the Argentine people will capably confront the great challenges that an unjust international economic order has imposed on you and the other Latin American peoples, causing irreparable deterioration of our standards of living. These challenges will be less difficult to meet if, inspired by the ideals of Bolivar, San Martin, and Sandino, we fight to unite Latin America in the future and firmly defend the sacred principles of nonintervention and the self-determination of peoples.

During your presidential term, we hope to continue to strengthen the cordial ties that have traditionally existed between our two countries and governments.
Fraternally,
Daniel Ortega Saavedra
President of Nicaragua

Agricultural-Livestock Ministry Reorganized

PA2105180289 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 18 May 89 p 5

[Communique released by Agricultural-Livestock Development and Agrarian Reform Ministry, MIDINRA, in Managua on 17 May]

[Text] The following changes have been made as a result of MIDINRA's reorganization process:

1. The Agricultural Technology and Cattle Technology Directorates have been fused into a single agricultural research, transfer, and defense agency called the Agricultural Technology General Directorate.

2. The 12 APP [People's Ownership Sector] cattle-raising enterprises have been organized into a single administrative, technical, and financial directorate to be known as the State-owned Cattle Enterprise Society [HATONIC]. This society also includes the state-sponsored pure head of cattle and horse-breeding projects.

3. The National Rice and Sorghum Commission has been formed for systematic attention to the agricultural and industrial aspects of the production of these two basic grains.

In addition, the following officials have been designated to head the new organizations:

1. Julio Castillo Ortiz has been designated vice minister. He will head the Agricultural Technology General Directorate.

2. Alvaro Fiallos Oyanguren has been appointed executive president of the National Rice and Sorghum Commission.

3. Alvaro Reyes Portocarrero has been appointed HATONIC executive president.

Generally speaking, these changes conclude MIDINRA's reorganization and the formation of the institutional and decentralized business and production agencies that constitute the public agricultural sector.
Managua, 17 May 1989
Public Relations Directorate
MIDINRA

Panama

District Attorney on U.S. Guard Arrests

PA2005012289 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 0005 GMT 20 May 89

[Communique issued by the District Attorney's Office in Panama City on 19 May]

[Text] Through local and international media reports, it has come to the attention of the District Attorney's Office that the U.S. Embassy is once again disinforming the public. The U.S. Embassy has stated that 15 of its security guards were summoned for questioning by the police yesterday, adding that as of yet they have not reappeared.

In light of this information, the District Attorney's Office hereby declares that:

1. On 10 May, opposition groups staged violent actions led by the three Civic Democratic Opposition Alliance, ADOC, candidates.

2. As a result of these violent actions, Alexis Guerra Morales was killed and Humberto Montenegro was wounded. Both were [ADOC second vice presidential candidate] Guillermo Ford's bodyguards. Furthermore, Panama Defense Forces officers Octavio and Demetrio Villareal, 1st Corporal Jorge Porras, 2nd Corporal Alberto Gonzalez, and policeman Marco Dominguez were wounded by gunfire.

3. The District Attorney's Office began an investigation to determine the nature of the illegal events and their perpetrators' and accomplices' identities.

4. Through this investigation, it has been determined that Alexis Guerra and Humberto Montenegro, worked for MINSA, S.A., a company owned by Sergio Arturo Anguizola.

5. MINSA, S.A. is a company that employs between 55 and 80 security guards, all of whom work for the U.S. Embassy in Panama. This company's communications center uses U.S. Embassy frequencies and its personnel are trained by U.S. soldiers in the use of weapons, explosives, etc at the U.S. Naval Station at Rodman. Furthermore, the firearms used by the security guards are U.S. property. The MINSA, S.A. employees all carry U.S. Embassy identification cards, which gives them access to diplomatic officials' homes. However, they are not part of the U.S. Embassy's official staff.

6. It has also been determined that Alexis Guerra and Humberto Montenegro, both employees of MINSA, S.A., were not authorized to serve as bodyguards for Ford, [ADOC first vice presidential candidate Ricardo] Arias, and [ADOC presidential candidate Guillermo] Endara. Guerra and Montenegro had been appointed by top U.S. Embassy authorities to perform this task. This fact has been corroborated by several of the company's employees, by Jose Alfonso Marino, the company's administrator, and by the company's owner, Sergio Arturo Anguizola. These people have been summoned to the District Attorney's office for questioning, as a normal part of the investigation.

7. As everyone knows, a ban forbidding citizens to carry firearms was in effect on the day that these violent events occurred. The ban is still in effect.

8. The District Attorney's Office emphatically states that the aforementioned company's personnel are currently being investigated. It has been fully proven that this company's personnel participated in these violent events and were carrying and shooting firearms. We have found an Ingram M-11 machinegun, serial number 820001541, and a 9-mm clip. This is a weapon of war that is not used for security purposes. We are abiding by all legal guidelines during the investigation, and those being investigated have all the procedural rights established by Panamanian law.
Sincerely,
[Signed] Mario Ballesteros, assistant district attorney
Panama City, 19 May 1989

DENI Denies Guards' Arrests

PA1905140589 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1310 GMT 19 May 89

[Text] Panama City, 19 May (EFE)—The U.S. Embassy in Panama tonight accused the Panamanian police of arresting yesterday 15 security guards working for that diplomatic mission.

The police yesterday afternoon summoned the guards—who work for a private Panamanian company, "Tesna-Minsa"—to give statements, and "they have not been seen since then," a U.S. diplomat said.

A spokesman for the National Department of Investigation (DENI) denied to EFE that DENI is holding any U.S. Embassy security guards, as the U.S. diplomat stated.

According to the diplomat, the guards were summoned after a raid on the home of one of the company's owners. In that raid, the police seized radio communications equipment with the embassy's frequency and arrested the sister of one of the owners, a Colombian, and three guards.

According to the U.S. Embassy version, the arrests may be related to the 10 May murder of Alexis Guerra, bodyguard of opposition leader Guillermo Ford.

Guerra had earlier worked for the U.S. Embassy, hired by Tesna-Minsa, as the bodyguard of one of the U.S. counselors.

Another of Ford's bodyguards, Humberto Montenegro, who was injured on 10 May when an opposition demonstration was violently disrupted, had also worked as an Embassy security guard.

The U.S. diplomat noted that "both men had gone to work for Ford of their own volition."

Asked about security in the Embassy following the arrests, the diplomat said the mission has over 70 guards and 7 supervisors, and that "all of them are on their jobs."

Government, Opposition Demonstration Plans

Opposition Prepares for Action

PA1905153789 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1210 GMT 19 May 89

[Text] Panama—The Panamanian opposition is preparing a huge demonstration to coincide with the date on which the foreign ministers designated by the OAS are scheduled to arrive to urgently promote an agreement in Panama. According to statements yesterday by a prominent leader of the Civic Democratic Opposition Alliance, the date and the place where the demonstration will take place will depend on the confirmation of the date on which the foreign ministers of Guatemala, Ecuador, and Trinidad and Tobago will arrive.

According to Argentine Evelio O. Fabroni, OAS representative to Panama, the foreign ministers, who have 15 days to conduct their mission, will arrive to Panama on 23 May.

"Optimistic" Regarding OAS Visit

PA1905220389 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2028 GMT 19 May 89

[Text] Panama City, 19 May (EFE)—The major Panamanian opposition leaders expressed their "optimism" today regarding the visit by an OAS delegation to Panama next Tuesday [23 May]. The delegation is intended to help reach "a national agreement" to end Panama's political crisis.

Guillermo Endara, Ricardo Arias Calderon, and Guillermo Ford, the opposition presidential and vice presidential candidates, met today with European and Latin American diplomats accredited to Panama to express their "satisfaction" with the OAS resolution adopted on Wednesday.

The OAS agreed to send a delegation to Panama composed of the foreign ministers of Ecuador, Guatemala, and Trinidad and Tobago. The mission, which includes OAS Secretary General Joao Baena Soares, will arrive here on Tuesday.

Guillermo Endara told EFE that he spoke to Baena Soares today on plans to receive the delegation.

Endara said he does not know who the mission members will meet with in addition to the opposition. "I presume they will also meet with Panamanian military men," he added.

He confirmed that the opposition intends to organize "a mass event in support of the freedom of assembly" during the foreign ministers' visit, but he did not specify whether or not it would be a demonstration.

An ambassador told EFE that the opposition "is convinced that it will be in power on 1 September," referring to the date called for by the Panamanian Constitution for the president and legislators elected in the 7 May elections, which were annulled by the Electoral Tribunal, to take office.

The meeting with the opposition was attended by four ambassadors of the European Community accredited to Panama (Italy, France, Spain, and the United Kingdom) and ambassadors from the "Group of Eight" who are in the country (Venezuela withdrew its ambassador this week and the Mexican representative was recalled for consultations).

According to another diplomat who participated in the meeting, the opposition leaders said that the OAS initiative is "the key" to solve the country's political crisis.

The opposition leaders told the diplomatic representatives that they viewed the OAS resolution very favorably, and they said "it provides the groundwork for a change of the Panamanian regime" when it refers to the necessity of "a transfer of power."

According to one of the diplomats who was at the meeting, one of the opposition leaders noted that this "transfer of power" is "more than just a mere change of government."

Communique Bans Demonstrations

PA2005173289 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1706 GMT 20 May 89

[Communique issued by Government and Justice Minister Rodolfo Chiari in Panama City on 19 May]

[Text] The Panamanian Government and Justice Ministry hereby informs all national groups that the government will not allow parades, meetings, public demonstrations, or motorcades until the special commission—appointed by the OAS through its 17 May resolution—submits its report. The commission was appointed to promote conciliatory formulas among Panamanians to achieve a national agreement.

The Panamanian police force and the Panama Defense Forces will enforce this decision. The measure was adopted in accordance with the petition presented by the OAS through the aforementioned resolution, which reads as follows: to urge Panamanian authorities and all political forces in Panama to abstain from adopting any measure or taking any course of action that could aggravate the crisis.

[Signed] Rodolfo Chiari de Leon

Government and Justice Minister

Minister Bans Demonstrations

PA2005010489 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 0000 GMT 20 May 89

[Text] Panamanian Government and Justice Minister Rodolfo Chiari De Leon warned today that marches, meetings, public demonstrations, and car caravans will not be allowed until the special commission appointed by the Organization of American States to find conciliatory formulas for Panamanians to achieve a national agreement submits its report. Minister Chiari stated in his communique that the police authorities and Panama Defense Forces will ensure compliance with this decision.

This measure has been taken in accordance with Point 3 of OAS Resolution No 17 that appointed the special commission. That point reads: To urge Panamanian authorities and all political forces in Panama to abstain from adopting any measure or taking any course of action that could aggravate the crisis.

Arias Calderon Repudiates Ban

PA2005141589 Paris AFP in Spanish 0636 GMT 20 May 89

[Excerpts] Panama City, 19 May (AFP)—The Panamanian opposition today accused General Manuel Antonio Noriega's regime of "mocking" the OAS by banning public demonstrations during the visit of the foreign ministers, who are expected to arrive in Panama on Tuesday.

Ricardo Arias Calderon, former Civic Democratic Opposition Alliance [ADOC] first vice presidential candidate, whose party is claiming victory at the 7 May elections, said: "This constitutes an additional violation of our human rights and a mockery of OAS intentions and actions." [passage omitted]

Arias Calderon said that the Noriega regime "does not implement repression through decrees but through communiques." When asked if the opposition was prepared to defy the government ban on demonstrations, the political leader noted that human rights violations and all forms of repression must be taken into consideration [by the OAS delegation].

Arias Calderon stressed the "great hopes" with which ADOC is awaiting the arrival of the OAS delegation. The OAS issued a resolution holding Gen Noriega directly responsible for "abuses against the election process."

He added that the OAS resolution calls for the transfer of power based on democratic means, which means—he said—Noriega's recognition of the elections and his withdrawal as soon as possible" as head of the Panama Defense Forces. [quotation marks as received]

Plans for OAS Delegation Visit Described

'Good Use' of OAS Presence

PA2105153589 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 21 May 89 p A-4

[Editorial: "The OAS Presence in Panama"]

[Text] It is no secret to anyone that the Panamanian conflict has been internationalized. The problem undoubtedly became most acute and most delicate with the annulment of the popular elections held on Sunday, 7 May. As a result of this, the Venezuelan Government requested a special meeting of the OAS, which was held in Washington on Wednesday. That debate led to the designation of a commission made up of three foreign ministers and the OAS secretary general, who are to travel to our country to urgently promote formulas for an understanding to achieve a nationwide agreement that will solve the problem within a short time.

The document's content has been widely circulated throughout the entire world. Despite the great importance of that resolution to the sectors involved in the

country's internal conflict, we think it is appropriate to comment on what we believe is the most interesting point: the OAS commission's presence in our country to seek an agreement between the parties involved. We have often pointed out the need for us Panamanians to reach an agreement regarding our present political crisis. Perhaps it has not been possible to reach that national agreement because of a lack of trust in the suggested intermediaries.

It is estimated that all Panamanian sectors have participated in the dispute in one way or another. At this time, the conditions for taking the political sectors involved in the maze-like quarrel to the negotiating table have changed greatly. It cannot be denied that despite the OAS' deterioration, with regard to the Panamanian issue it has shown a certain solidity that could give it sufficient authority to be a respectable and reliable intermediary. The OAS resolution must be viewed from its most positive aspects so that we can begin the path toward a clear national agreement leading to a political solution acceptable to all Panamanians. The OAS presence in our country should not be viewed in any other way. Let us make the patriotic commitment called for by the current serious situation. We must open the doors to an understanding and an appreciation of that regional organization's true, genuine intentions. We are sure that the OAS member states feel deep inside that we Panamanians are being drained economically because of a lack of goodwill gestures, which would allow us to come together in an understanding that would lead to a permanent solution.

That is our opinion on the most important part of the resolution approved by the OAS in Washington on Wednesday. Without yielding an inch in our principles of nationalism, sovereignty, and dignity, we should take advantage of the OAS presence, and its intervention, to finally reach an agreement that can be honored by all the parties involved in the conflict that has been exhausting the country's economic, social, and moral reserves.

ADOC Confirms 24 May Plan

PA2105234289 Paris AFP in Spanish 2234 GMT 21 May 89

[Text] La Chorrera, Panama, 21 May (AFP)—About 3,000 people in La Chorrera, a major town approximately 18 km southwest of Panama City, cheered the leaders of the Civic Democratic Opposition Alliance (ADOC) who attended a mass at a local church today.

The demonstrators gathered spontaneously near La Chorrera's main church to greet ADOC candidates Guillermo Endara, Ricardo Arias Calderon, and Guillermo Ford.

This opposition activity was carried out as part of a political offensive started yesterday to stir up ADOC followers' interest in the arrival of an OAS delegation on Tuesday, 24 May.

The delegation, which is made up of three foreign ministers and OAS Secretary General Joao Baena Soares, has been given the difficult task of promoting a way to reach an accord to resolve Panama's current crisis.

Chanting slogans such as "We feel it, we feel it, President Endara," "Justice, Justice," and "Not one more day," the demonstrators, who were brandishing Christian Democratic Party—one of ADOC's member parties—flags, gathered across from the church entrance to cheer their leaders.

Later, they participated in a short walk around the town of about 40,000 inhabitants and saw off the ADOC candidates, who returned to the capital at noon.

"We are very satisfied with the results of these tours," Endara told newsmen who accompanied him.

The presidential candidate and his colleagues will visit factories and workplaces in Panama City tomorrow.

Despite a government ban on demonstrations, the ADOC candidates confirmed that they will hold a demonstration on 50th Street in Panama City on Wednesday, 24 May, to welcome the OAS delegation.

Duque: OAS Should Not Judge

PA2105160089 Panama City LA REPUBLICA DOMINICAL in Spanish 21 May 89 pp 1-A, 8-A

[Text] Carlos Duque, president of the Democratic Revolutionary Party [and National Liberation Coalition, COLINA, presidential candidate], said: "We maintain our principle that neither the OAS nor any other international organization has the right to meddle in Panama's affairs."

The political leader said that "these organizations have no political, juridical, or moral authority to judge peoples."

Duque recalled the OAS actions against Guatemala in 1954, against Cuba in 1961, against Panama in 1964, against the Dominican Republic in 1965, against Argentina in 1982, and against Grenada in 1983.

Referring to the OAS observers who are to visit our country, Duque said: "They should protest the U.S. economic embargo, psychological aggression, and its arrogant attitude toward Panama."

"They [the OAS observers] should show solidarity with Latin America and not serve as messengers following instructions from the U.S. Government. They should protest the U.S. violations of the Torrijos-Carter Treaties and the psychological threats against the Panamanian people."

PRD Says OAS 'Contradictory'

PA1905191189 Panama City LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 18 May 89 pp 1, 6

[Report by Reinaldo Labastide C.]

[Text] Darinel Espino, secretary general of the Democratic Revolutionary Party [PRD], said today that "the party believes the OAS declaration was influenced by the United States and that it is contradictory."

Espino added that on one hand the declaration talks of nonintervention, and on the other hand of General Noriega's excesses. "That constitutes interference by one nation in another," he said.

The PRD's secretary general pointed out that another important element to be considered is the U.S. meddling in the Latin American countries' vote. "It is regrettable for the OAS, because it proves how much it has decayed over the past few years," he added.

Espino pointed out that the OAS failure to act on Latin American issues led to the formation of the Group of Eight, Contadora Group, and others.

He announced that within a few hours, the PRD will issue an official communique on the OAS and Panama's situation.

Espino said the PRD's National Executive Committee and Political Commission are in permanent session analyzing the situation and making all the pertinent consultations to correctly evaluate the OAS.

U.S. 'Failed' at OAS

PA1905234789 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2300 GMT 18 May 89

["Today in the World" commentary by Luis Manuel Martinez: "They Did Not Achieve Their Goals"]

[Text] Although President George Bush and his Secretary of State James Baker have to claim victory, Washington's goal was for immediate and devasting action by the OAS. The United States went to the OAS, for which it has no use and consideration, seeking the isolation of Panama and a joint OAS resolution breaking diplomatic and trade relations with Panama. It did not succeed. The United States wanted an agreement like the one in 1978 [against Nicaraguan dictator Anastasio Somoza], but it could not get that either. The Salvadoran Government—that despicable Christian Democratic specimen—proposed proclaiming Guillermo Endara as Panama's legal president, but the United States could not get that either. Where is the victory?

Is it the delegation that will come to the country to assess our situation and listen to the options and alternatives submitted by the Panamanian Government for the period beyond 1 September? Is that the victory? Is it a commission chaired no less than by Diego Cordovez, a negotiator who resisted Yankee pressures for 3 years and solved the Afghanistan problem contrary to the United States' views? Is it perhaps the presence of veteran diplomat Joao Baena Soares, who did not want to ignore that the United States was meddling under the pretext that there was election fraud? Is that the victory President Bush, the U.S. secretary of state, the Servile [Civic] Crusade, and the whole chorus of paid employees or those who hope the empire will forgive their foreign debt or give them new credit are, simultaneously, proclaiming?

Panama has become a bargaining chip. In exchange for attacking Noriega, we get such and such benefits. That is what happened with Cuba in 1959; that is what has always happened. That is why Latin America is so far from achieving its independence, being respected among the free world community, and being fundamentally Bolivarian. It so happens that the most un-Bolivarian and servile government in Latin American now is Carlos Andres Perez'. So let us note the presence of Baena Soares and Cordovez, two distinguished, incorruptible diplomats accompanied by the Guatemalan and Trinidadian and Tobagan foreign ministers, and we will see there are alternatives and a wide possibility for dialogue.

We did not win because no one can win in a situation where the U.S. President spends a whole week calling on his counterparts asking for their vote against Panama, and when a worldwide disinformation campaign, costing millions, took place before 7 May to create fraud. Deep down, that is if the servile Panamanians have a conscience, they must feel rather frustrated. The strike failed them. The invasion failed them. The OAS failed them. What is left for them? That is the question. Where are their weapons and their resources, and where is their chance of turning Panama into an inferno so 6-foot rifle-bearing soldiers may come in to install into office that poor man who gets sick like a puppy and the other old man who uses someone else's blood to pretend he is the victim of an attempted murder? If we reached that level... [changes thought]. This whole thing about Guillermo Endara and Guillermo Ford is a comic opera. Let us not even mention Ricky [Ricardo Arias Calderon] because he hides. He disappears at the first sign of a fight. The other two had no serious injuries but had to pretend. Mr Ford has appeared in newspapers and on television as if he had been murdered 200 times over.

That is the prerogative of the empire. To lie! To lie now! To lie always!

U.S., OAS, Perez Criticized

PA2005223389 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2300 GMT 19 May 89

["Today in the World" commentary by Luis Manuel Martinez: "Revealing Aspects"]

[Text] Since it was summoned, without any legal justification, the OAS consultation meeting turned into a cog in the White House wheel, as part of its planned aggression against Panama. We hear daily: What if U.S. troops

occupy Panama? What if there is an attack? What if there is an intervention? Intervention, aggression, troops, the Southern Command. All of that is here in Panama. We are the victims of an aggression from many fronts: economic, political, psychological. What more aggression can we expect if they deprive us of our tax revenues and steal the money we have deposited in New York?

The election fraud that began in February —Bush felt the need to keep Panamanians from reaching a political solution to their domestic problems—that fraud, sponsored, planned, and implemented by the United States, provided a new opportunity. The fraud was over when the Electoral Tribunal—presided over by that great Panamanian, Yolanda Pulice de Rodriguez—annuled the elections; Washington lost half its plan. This why the United States had to put to work that old, down-and-out, obsolete covered wagon—the OAS—with the help of Carlos Andres Perez.

What role is the OAS playing? Has it learned about and reviewed in-depth the U.S. aggression and meddling in the election process, preceded by such grave measures as Reagan's War Act measures? Has the OAS sat down to review the impact on the lives of our people—the infant mortality rate, premature births, and growing malnutrition caused by U.S. aggression against Panama? Everything was lopsided. The OAS followed the script.

Latin America, eager to solve its foreign debt problem by receiving a few alms from its master, got a break. Panama became a bargaining chip. I attack Noriega and Panama, and you solve my problems. That is Carlos Andres Perez' stance. After 30 years of democracy and plundering and with his country in bankruptcy because the oil boon just ended, he needs billions to stop the flood of popular rebellion and the outcry from the slums and low-income groups. What other way can a mind as limited in scope as Carlos Andres' find but to sell himself out to the United States? What problem does the United States want to solve? Destroy Panama and arrange the situation to perpetuate U.S. presence in the Panama Canal. That is where Latin America came in to play.

Panamanians cannot think for a second anyone can solve their problems. Nothing we do not do here, nothing, other than resistance and the unity of the best mass groups in a dignified stance in the face of all the attacks from the U.S. propaganda, can lead us victoriously toward the year 2000. Noriega's name is an excuse. Bush is chiefly to blame. He is the sinister conspirator against a people who never stepped outside the limits of their commitments and who do not deserve this policy.

The tables have been turned. The chief culprit, the chief enemy of Panama, the chief enemy of Latin America now appears as the savior of democracy and guardian and defender of the ballots and fraud. Gentlemen, those who buy this stinking pie must prepare for heartburn. The only person who can eat that pie is the corpulent body of that great patriot called Guillermo Endara Galimany. May God keep him happy for a long time.

Delegation Tasks

PA2005145389 Panama City MATUTINO in Spanish 19 May 89 p 4

[Editorial: "Facts for the OAS To Consider in Forming an Opinion at This Time"]

[Text] The distinguished OAS delegates, who will arrive in our country to accomplish a delicate mission regarding the Panamanian situation, are advised to take the following into consideration:

First: The voiding of the elections is an irreversible fact. It was ordered by the Electoral Tribunal [TEP], the only organization that, according to Article 136 of the Panamanian Constitution, has the authority to handle everything concerned with the elections.

Second: Whatever the results of the [OAS delegation's] investigations, its responsibility is limited to reporting its findings to an OAS plenary meeting.

Third: One of the factors that ruined the 7 May elections in Panama and made it impossible to allow this civic event to take place democratically was a personal statement by U.S. President George Bush, who told the world that his government would "not acknowledge the results of the Panamanian elections if the progovernment candidate wins." This fact must be taken into consideration before all else.

Fourth: Mr Bush's statement, his $10-million worth of support for the opposition parties, the many instances of his diplomatic, economic and psychological aggression against our country, and the presence of thousands of U.S. soldiers—who are heavily armed and equipped with sophisticated battle gear—cannot be considered as conducive to a climate of effective democracy or as favorable to the free exercise of the sovereign right to hold elections. These actions were intended to pressure Panamanian voters into voting for the candidate preferred by Mr Bush, because that candidate had in turn committed himself to working in favor of Mr Bush's objective of extending the U.S. presence in Panama beyond the year 2000 and of strengthening U.S. domination over the entire continent.

Fifth: The climate of violence that was created the day following the elections was promoted by the anticipated U.S. interpretation of the election results as well as by the disinformation spread by a team that had infiltrated our territory for the sole purpose of providing the radio and television media with false and premature election information, which contradicted information provided by the TEP, the only organization constitutionally authorized to issue election results.

If the idea is to investigate the elections' legitimacy, the OAS delegation will have to see how the adulteration of the democratic spirit of the elections began, how this adulteration was promoted by elements foreign to Panama and that have no commitment to the Panamanian Government, but whose loyalties lie with the Bush administration. If the OAS delegation tackles the task of establishing responsibility for and the reasons behind the violence, it should bear in mind that the opposition members were hurt by blunt objects—the arms of people who grab at anything when faced with an aggression. The Panama Defense Forces members who were wounded during the brief instance of violence were wounded by bullets shot from the kind of weapons that are used with premeditation, the kind of weapons used by people who have enough money to buy them. The people who were near the beaten opposition members have no means of buying that kind of weapon, but those opposed to the government are able to buy such weapons, because most of them are economically well off and can buy and fire, without any risk, those weapons against a people who defended themselves with whatever they could find.

U.S., OAS 'Intervention'

PA2005160189 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 19 May 89 p 4

[Editorial: "Intervention is Disguised in Velvet"]

[Text] The matter concerning the Yankees and their OAS lackeys is how to disguise intervention in our country. How can they justify their meddling in the domestic affairs of a friendly nation? How can they stab someone while wearing silk gloves?

European analysts have already said how: through velvet-smooth intervention. But, nevertheless, it is intervention. Like obedient dogs and under the leadership of the leader of the pack, the submissive Venezuelan soldier, the OAS foreign ministers set the stage to please Washington's imperialistic plans.

We have to admit, however, that a modicum of decency made some of those who gathered in this tragicomic stage production pause for a moment and cloak with sugary phrases the text of the resolution that was finally approved at midnight yesterday. There is no doubt that Bush, in his furious fit of anger at our country and its courageous leaders, wanted more. The almost virginal modesty of a United States that still blushes like a maiden not used to rude treatment by a savage lover emerged like the tip of an iceberg before the brutal pragmatism of the Yankee barbarian. [sentence as published] Plain and vulgar intervention has been covered with velvety diplomatic expressions.

An OAS commission will come to Panama with Mr Bush's message. We know. We also can guess the results of this visit. We want to reiterate to these distinguished visitors what we have said so many times. Panama needs no mediators to solve its problems.

A government like the U.S. Government and a president like Mr Bush could hardly prejudge us. The U.S. Government and the U.S. President should be repudiated most severely by the Latin American nations that have been attacked. Panama is one of them.

Bush's policemen still have time to refrain from meddling in our affairs. We do not want them here.

Communist Party on OAS

PA2005161389 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2300 GMT 19 May 89

[Text] The People's Party [PdP] said today that it will support any OAS member state that takes a firm position in defense of Panama's right to self-determination. In a communique published this afternoon, Panama's Communist Party [PdP] analyzed the OAS foreign ministers consultative meeting, which met to discuss Panama's political crisis. The PdP communique declared that it will not tolerate any violation of the right to self-determination under the pretext of seeking a harmonious solution to the Panamanian crisis.

The note added that the PdP understands that next week's visit by the OAS delegation is aimed at gathering first-hand information on the situation in Panama and to contribute to peace, but in no way should the delegation assume an interventionist position. In conclusion, the Panamanian communists said that the Panamanian political problem can be solved if the United States does not interfere in Panama.

Resolution Berated as 'Treason'

PA2005171389 Panama City LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 18 May 89 pp 1, 4

[Editorial: "The OAS at the Edge of a Cliff"]

[Text] The contents of the resolution drafted by the Latin American foreign ministers regarding the situation in Panama represent treason. Behind all the insignificant language and the unintelligible diplomatic jargon there is a clear rejection of Bolivar's ideals and Latin American solidarity.

The United States, like a master puppeteer, has used the dollar to manipulate a meeting which should have realized the moral obligation to accuse those who acted as prosecutors. The distressing $50-million OAS debt and certainly individual privileges constituted the enormous salary, which disgraces the hemisphere.

It is immoral "to urge all governments to abstain from carrying out actions that run counter to the principle of nonintervention in the domestic affairs of other states" without mentioning the name of the government that has shamelessly violated all principles governing coexistence among nations, the government that has openly attacked

not only our country but all the weak nations in the world. That government has been doing so since the ominous day on which that government invented the concept of "manifest destiny."

The examples of Simon Bolivar, Jose Marti, Benito Juarez, and other giants symbolizing independence and Latin American unity were buried to make way for the OAS funeral march led by the United States.

Despite the shame and pain we feel in seeing this inter-American organization at the edge of a cliff, we understand why it assumed that position.

Yankee pressure is too much to bear for nations that suffer hereditary complexes. The leaders that made it possible for those nations to shake off the imperial yoke must be reborn. Those nations need the nationalism that Omar Torrijos brought to this small country. They need Manuel Antonio Noriega's [commander in chief of the Panama Defense Forces] sense of fatherland, which leads him to defend his nation with the spirit of a true liberator. Panama reflects the image of dignity and pride, an example that the Latin American community should follow. If it does not, then it may find its conscience touched by the following statement once made by Omar Torrijos: "He who quietly and nonchalantly watches as a nation is being destroyed without acting in defense of that nation's people is as much a criminal as he who kills a defenseless people."

PRD Front Condemns 'Meddling'

PA2105201889 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 21 May 89

[Text] The Democratic Revolutionary Party's [PRD] Public Servants Front condemned OAS meddling in Panama's domestic affairs in a communique signed by the PRD front's president, Benjamin Colamarco. That colonial organization has no political, legal, or moral authority to judge the people of any country in the American continent, the document read. The document also condemned the U.S. Government's actions against Panamanian sovereignty and its flagrant violations of international law.

Further Reportage on Post-Election Crisis

Endara Vows To Continue

PA2105154989 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 21 May 89 p A-8

[Thank-you note issued by Guillermo Endara, Civic Democratic Opposition Alliance, ADOC, presidential candidate, published as a full-page advertisement; date and place not given]

[Text] In gratitude:

Guillermo Endara Galimany thanks all his fellow party members, personal and political friends, the diplomatic corps, the Catholic Church, the national and international press, and particularly the Panamanian people, as well as the medical personnel, technicians, and nurses who showed an interest in his health during his hospitalization at the Paitilla Medical Center.

Since Endara Galimany's birthday coincided with his hospitalization, he also wishes to express his gratitude for the visits, telephone calls, masses, prayers, cards, letters, telegrams, flower arrangements, and the many other expressions of affection he received.

Endara Galimany reiterates his steadfast determination to continue to defend the Panamanian people's sovereign will.

No attack will keep us from our struggle. The ill-fated, violent actions have deepened our commitment to the mandate we received from the people through an overwhelming majority at the polls.

We will remain at the forefront of all Panamanians who, without rancor, violence, or fear, are struggling for democracy, justice, and liberty.

Thanks to all.
Guillermo Endara Galimany
President-elect

ADOC 'Admits' Starting Violence

PA2105170389 Panama City LA REPUBLICA DOMINICAL in Spanish 21 May 89 p 2-A

[Text] Panama City, 20 May (PANAPRESS)—International journalists, who came to cover the elections and who asked not to be identified, told PANAPRESS that prominent ADOC [Civic Democratic Opposition Alliance] members have admitted privately that their bodyguards, commissioned by the U.S. Embassy, began the shooting on 10 May, which culminated in the well-known incidents.

During the bloody incidents, four members of the Panama Defense Forces, who were carrying out their duties at the Santa Ana Park, as well as several completely unarmed members of the Dignity Battalions, who were conducting routine exercises, received bullets wounds.

Meanwhile, on Friday, the Assistant District Attorney's Office denied slanderous reports disseminated by the U.S. Embassy claiming that 15 security agents working for the U.S. Embassy are "missing."

An official report from the District Attorney's Office says that the agents, who are employed by MIMSA, S.A., are under investigation for their participation in the violent 10 May incidents in Santa Ana Park. They are charged with carrying and using firearms. The Panamanian Government, through the Government and Justice

Ministry, issued a decree banning any person from bearing firearms thoughout the national territory during the election process. This decree is still in effect.

The report states that "the investigations are being conducted in accordance with legal procedures; those being investigated enjoy all the legal rights established by Panamanian laws."

The report states that MIMSA, S.A. employs 75 to 80 guards, who provide security services to the U.S. Embassy and who are trained in the use of weapons and explosives by U.S. soldiers at the Rodman (Naval) Base on the banks of the Panama Canal.

The district attorney has also determined that agent Alexis Guerra, who died from a bullet wound on the day of the incidents, and Humberto Montenegro—both MIMSA, S.A. employees—did not have a contract to work as bodyguards for ADOC candidates Guillermo Ford [ADOC second vice presidential candidate], Ricardo Arias Calderon [ADOC first vice presidential candidate], and [ADOC presidential candidate] Guillermo Endara, but who, nevertheless, were assigned to that job by the U.S. Embassy.

Noriega Appears

PA1905220489 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2003 GMT 19 May 89

[Report by Andreu Claret]

[Excerpts] Panama City, 19 May (EFE)—After a 10-day absence spent in places of maximum security and surrounded by a few associates, General Manuel Antonio Noriega has again taken the reigns of Panamanian military and political affairs. [passage omitted]

Noriega appeared in public last night for the first time since the 7 May elections. He attended an "anti-imperialist" cultural event accompanied by President Manuel Solis Palma, one of the civilians who has supported him during the worst days of the crisis.

Gen Noriega was silent all night as he listened to the "Revolutionary Singers" and "Liberation" bands together with approximately 2,000 people. Above the stage was a banner reading "With Noriega Until the End."

During the first days of the crisis, Noriega held several meetings, including one with leaders of the Democratic Revolutionary Party (PRD), the largest progovernment party, that was described as "stormy." "Noriega was very upset over the election results," said a PRD source who asked not to be identified.

Following the annulment of the elections by the Electoral Tribunal on 10 May and the violent repression of an opposition demonstration the same day, the general literally "disappeared" from the capital. This generated all sorts of rumors about his whereabouts and about his relations with the Panama Defense Forces [FDP] General Staff and the government. [passage omitted]

A high-ranking FDP officer reported that on 12 May Noriega ordered the FDP to remove the roadblocks that had been erected near the entrances to several U.S. military bases. Diplomats interpreted his decision as an effort to "normalize" the situation following the arrival of almost 2,000 U.S. Marines and soldiers sent to Panama by President George Bush.

During his days of complete isolation, spent in various locations throughout the country, Noriega refused all requests for interviews. He also refused any telephone conversations other than those from his officers or closest associates. Among the calls he rejected was one from Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez, who personally called from Madrid. Gonzalez spoke to people very close to Noriega in an effort to talk to the general, but it was to no avail.

Sources close to Noriega told EFE that Noriega refused to take the call after learning that Gonzalez' call was a mediation effort resulting from a conversation the Spanish leader held with President Bush. [passage omitted]

Legislators Discuss Alternatives

PA1905221989 Panama City MATUTINO in Spanish 19 May 89 p 2

[Report by Rogelio Martiz]

[Text] Progovernment legislators continued their discussions yesterday at the Legislative Assembly to seek solutions to the current crisis and find a way so various states organizations, whose operations will legally end on 31 August 1989, can continue to operate.

The discussions are being conducted behind closed doors at the Legislative Assembly. It is expected that the decisions made during these meetings, which are being held to solve the political crisis that resulted from the annulment of the 7 May elections, will be publicly announced next week.

Legislator Guillermo Jimenez, president of the Legislative Assembly's Government, Justice, and Constitutional Affairs Permanent Committee, said the Electoral Tribunal's decision to annul the elections was allowable because Article 290 of the Electoral Code gives the Electoral Tribunal the authority to make such a decision.

Jimenez said the elections were annulled because the election process was subjected to foreign pressures, and because there were other actions that should not have taken place during the election process.

Jimenez did not rule out the possibility of forming a constituent assembly to establish new guidelines and to alleviate the country's political crisis.

Shooting of Priest Protested

FL1905123689 Hilversum International Service in English 1030 GMT 19 May 89

[Text] Netherlands Foreign Minister Hans van den Broek is to submit a strong protest to the Panamanian Government concerning events surrounding the death of the Dutch priest Nicolas Van Kleef. The protest will be handed over by the Netherlands ambassador in Colombia.

The Dutch priest was shot dead by a soldier during the Panamanian elections. The Netherlands Government wants a guarantee that the killer will be prosecuted. The Netherlands will also protest against the intimidating attitude of the Panamanian Air Force during the funeral of the Dutch priest.

Ecuadorean 'Dignity' Volunteers

PA1905163889 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 18 May 89 pp 20, 18

[Report by Jorge Mombeliard]

[Excerpt] Hundreds of Ecuadoreans rushed yesterday to the tables set up throughout Quito to join the "Pichincha No 2" Dignity Battalions and to prepare to counter the U.S. armed aggression against Panama.

The announcement was made yesterday by an authorized spokesman of the Jose Peralta Journalists Front of Ecuador, who added that these battalions are being reinforced with professional military men on nonactive duty and civilian groups with a respectable level of military experience.

So far, over 1,500 Ecuadoran fighters have joined, and it is expected that twice as many will have joined by the end of this week.

According to the source, all of Ecuador is on the "warpath" against U.S. plans to carry out a military intervention in Panama as a result of the annulment of the general elections held early in May.

The source mentioned these battalions were formed last year in April, when the Ecuadoran people were fearing a U.S. invasion against Panama.

At that time, General Frank Vargas Pazzos called for the establishment of the battalions, which are being reinforced today by hundreds of Ecuadoran volunteers who are willing to come and fight in Panama. [passage omitted]

U.S. Soldiers in 'Combat Gear'

PA1905172589 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 19 May 89

[Text] Colon—Trucks carrying U.S. soldiers in combat gear were seen on the Transisthmian Highway traveling from the Atlantic side to the Pacific side. They were crossing the Don Bosco Bridge toward the Pacific side under the observation of Panama Defense Forces members and residents along the highway.

'Execution Lists' Prepared

PA2005022689 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 19 May 89 p 5

[From the "Scoops" column]

[Text] We were not mistaken when we reported that in the Obarrio neighborhood there are a great number of pro-Yankee seditious people. At the De la Guardia family's house, No 4 Abel Bravo Street, lists are drawn up of patriotic persons and are sent to the U.S. intelligence services so these persons can be executed in the event of an armed intervention. They will get it back twofold. An eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth!

Party Urges Dialogue

PA2005043189 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 19 May 89 pp 10, A-6

["Manifesto to the country" issued by the Republican Party National Executive Committee, Political Committee, and National Directorate in Panama City on 17 May]

[Text] The historical and political circumstances Panama is experiencing are a result of the country's social and economic reality. In light of this fact, and based on a post-electoral analysis, the Republican Party today addresses the local and international community to express its straightforward opinion on the current situation. We express our opinion after a discussion among the various levels of our party's organizations and with awareness of our responsibility to the fatherland.

We realize that Panama's short period of republican life has not allowed the country to perfect its economic independence. We realize that in our stages of development toward forming a national identity, we must face political, judicial, and social changes. The fluctuations of our national policy along this path strengthen democratic institutions instead of weakening them, as Panamanians and foreigners have maliciously stated under the guise of a misunderstood democracy that would accommodate those persons.

The Republican Party firmly believes in a national agreement among Panamanians. The annulment of the elections due to flaws in the process, an annulment allowed by Article 290 of the Electoral Code, shows us there is a need for presenting alternatives that will

provide the country with a healthy solution. We therefore propose an immediate dialogue between opposing forces attended by these forces' most representative groups.

We flatly reject U.S. participation in Panama's domestic affairs, as well as any attempt at military intervention. Such actions violate a country's right to self-determination. Furthermore, our country has come of age, even though it is struggling within the historic framework of its development.

We urge our fellow citizens to put aside internal power struggles in favor of making political, economic, and social changes that will consolidate a sovereign state.

Panama City, 17 May 1989

Republican Party National Executive Committee, Political Committee, and National Directorate

U.S. 'Attacks' Protested

PA2005122489 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1645 GMT 19 May 89

[Text] Harare—Panama has accused the United States of waging a new type of war against it and urged the Nonaligned Movement to put an end to these U.S. actions because they are a threat to all countries. Panamanian Deputy Foreign Minister Jose Maria Cabrera told the Nonaligned Movement meeting in Harare that the latest U.S. campaign against Panama began in 1987. He stressed that his government is fighting the U.S. attacks, which are supported by powerful segments of the international media. He also said Panama is asking for the nonaligned governments' and peoples' support for its right not to be overcome by slander.

Cabrera said that even before the 7 May elections, U.S. President George Bush had disregarded the electoral authorities of a sovereign country and had claimed the right to count the votes cast by another nation's people. The ineptitude and stubbornness of those responsible for spreading deception is so great, he added, that there is such a flow of lies that no one really knows what the truth is.

Cabrera added that the elections were declared null and void because the elections were plagued by manipulation and fraud. Despite this fact, he said, the election count to that point showed the forces of national liberation were winning.

Moreover, Cabrera warned that the Third World countries continue to be a theater in which tragic farces are staged to divert the U.S. public's attention.

TV Network Accused of Meddling

PA2005181089 Panama City MATUTINO in Spanish 19 May 89 p 8

["Starting Point" column by Griselda Lopez]

[Text] All countries have the sovereign right to control their radio and television frequencies. These frequencies should never be used to violate another country's sovereignty. International regulations are very clear on this point. In Panama, however, U.S. [Southern Command Network, SCN] television channels 8 and 10—originally intended for the entertainment of military personnel assigned to defend the canal—have become a medium to broadcast subversive messages to our people. Our leaders are direspected, news conferences are broadcast that contain direct insults, violating our sovereign rights pertaining to sensitive issues and directed at our Panama City and Colon residents—areas that are heavily populated with English-speaking people. Regulations restrict this channel's coverage area, but, nevertheless, violating all the rules, they have increased their frequency and installed sophisticated equipment allowing them to transmit a very clear signal to most of the homes in the areas mentioned. This incisive, violent, and aggressive penetration—which only a peaceful country like ours would tolerate—should be reported by the relevant Panamanian organizations. In accordance with international agreements, the network is restricted to entertain its troops and not to incite Panamanians. We have always been very benevolent toward the media. We do not regard the media as important as they regard themselves. At this very moment, channels 8 and 10 are violating all international norms. They are, perhaps, one of the most dangerous and subversive elements used in the low-intensity warfare against our country, and these stations are now the mouthpiece of the opposition. These stations describe our people as mobs, our leaders as criminals; their casts are tampered with to broadcast different versions of events, with the high-level technology used to deflect the truth from our people. It is a violation of the Torrijos-Carter Treaties and a shameless meddling in our domestic affairs. The gringos are using these means to fundamentally and directly intervene in our country, with newcasts nearly every hour, in which statements against our country are repeated more like an advertisement, and where public opinion is manipulated. This must be stopped, and we should protest against this increasingly offensive and insulting meddling.

Noriega Called 'Exemplary' Hero

PA2005184889 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 2327 GMT 19 May 89

[Station commentary: "Commander Noriega: Exemplary Third World Hero"]

[Text] A young, bold military man, such as Manuel Antonio Noriega, who, only 2 years ago was virtually unknown to the influential international media—which

is accustomed to seeking sensationalist aspects to conflicts and political events—today ranks first among preeminent figures of continental stature. Noriega's position in this regard is unquestionable. His prestige results from the firmness and courage with which this Panama Defense Forces commander in chief has carried out a project of national liberation and with which he has withstood the U.S. colonialist aggression, which is aimed at forcefully depriving the Panamanian people of their right to sovereignty and to determine their own destiny—without outside interference and without surrender.

Many statesmen recognize, with admiration and astonishment, that General Noriega has been able to fend off the lethal war machinery of the world's leading military power and that he has sufficient stamina to proclaim his decision to defeat the colonialist forces. These very forces have ultimately helped to transform him into a hero fighting an unequal battle and have drawn world attention to this extraordinary country. Gen Noriega has been slandered, threatened, betrayed, persecuted, and attacked by powerful enemies, who have joined forces in an attempt to get rid of this brave military man, who was awarded by the late General Torrijos for his loyalty and patriotism.

Neither the oligarchy nor the imperialist forces involved in the coup attempt were able to subdue this man, who opened the garrisons to the people and who gripped the national flag so that it will never fall into the hands of the colonialists. There has never been a Latin American and Third World military man who has withstood such a challenge by a foreign power in his own territory as Commander Noriega—a man of the highest merit—has done. He has no antecedent in the history of the young countries of the Indian America, the Negro, and the Mestizo America, of which we are a part, traditionally and with deep nationalist pride, born of the memory left to us by our fatherland's forbears and of the hope for the future.

There are those in the George Bush administration who cannot give credit to Noriega's enormous might in resisting, and they succumb to the desperate ploy of demanding a direct aggression to remove Gen Noriega from his position once and for all. However, there are also those in the White House and in the Pentagon who have reached the conclusion that they have not only failed in their policy to isolate Panama, but have turned the illustrious Panamanian military officer into a Third World champion, whom they cannot shove aside. Gen Noriega belongs not only to Panamanians, but to the countries in the world that admire and understand the lesson imparted by Panama to the U.S. colonialist forces. This formidable military strategist led to the realization of a revolutionary and Third World victory. It is beginning to become clear that within the Latin American political spectrum, there are some men—such as this commander of dignity—who will uphold the dignity and sovereignty of their nations.

PRD Leaders Continue Analysis

PA2105021689 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2300 GMT 20 May 89

[Text] Democratic Revolutionary Party [PRD] President Carlos Duque Jaen, National Executive Committee members, and political campaign coordinators held a new round of meetings today to analyze the national situation and the PRD's plans for struggle and national liberation and to outline what was called the PRD's Resistance Front.

PRD Secretary General Darinel Espino explained the issues analyzed today by the PRD in view of the current U.S. aggression:

[Begin recording] [Espino] The PRD meetings continued today with the participation of all its political cadres. Today we discussed the new guidelines to be adopted by the PRD in its international and internal relations in light of the national situation. The party seeks to organize and strengthen its main cadres and begin contacts for the participation of the other party members. The topics discussed were the party's reorganization, the party's position concerning the OAS resolution, and Panama's future.

[Reporter] Could you expand on these topics?

[Espino] The Panamanian citizenry will be informed about the measure to which these topics are discussed by the commission and other party groups.

[Reporter] Specifically referring to the OAS issue, what is the PRD's viewpoint?

[Espino] The PRD basically understands the OAS role but adamantly rejects the OAS presentation, because it is an interference and establishes a precedence. I think the OAS should first come to Panama to learn about the aggression that is being perpetrated against our people. Second, it should ascertain the U.S. Government's interference in our elections. Third, the OAS will find a country and a party—above all, in the PRD's case—that are capable of initiating a constructive dialogue for the benefit of Panamanian society. [end recording]

U.S. Seeks 'Intervention Excuse'

PA2105024989 Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 17 May 89 p 6-A

[Editorial: "An Excuse for Intervention"]

[Text] The statement was clear, forceful, and responsive to the basic principles of Mexico's foreign policy. Our ambassador to the United Nations, Jorge Montano, rejected several countries' intention to "export or impose democracies" and ratified every nation's right to

freely and sovereignly choose its own form of government. Such a statement is a direct reference to the U.S. desire to use the election conflict in Panama as an excuse to meddle in that country's domestic affairs.

The United States has resorted to the presence of international observers to stage its intervention. Apparently, the United States is trying to bring about an international request [instancia] to take urgent actions when the democracy of any country is threatened. However, we must ask the following question at the core of the "spirit" of this aim: How can democracy in Latin America be jointly defended if it is a value defined by the most dissimilar descriptions? There are governments, for example, that Mexico considers democratic but the United States does not.

Our country's foreign policy has placed the situation in Panama in its proper context. It criticizes General Noriega's attitude but does not allow the problems of violence to serve as an excuse to violate a country's right to self-determination. We must not forget that democracy's best defense will not come about only through meetings and through forming commissions, but through economic development. This is an area in which the United States can greatly contribute toward freedom.

Dignity Battalion Training

PA2105231889 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 21 May 89

[Text] The members of the Dignity Omar [Dignity] Battalion of Chiriqui Province are now receiving tactical training in the mountain areas of Chiriqui to maintain their preparedness to defend the homeland and its complete sovereignty. The members of the Omar Battalion have expressed their steadfast determination to support the nationalist struggle being waged by the Panamanian people.

Suspension of Mexican Oil Shipments Denied

PA2005013089 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2351 GMT 19 May 89

[Text] Panama City, 19 May (DPA)—Panamanian Commerce and Industries Minister Isaac Hanono today said Mexico will continue to supply oil to Panama, contrary to what the Mexican press reported today.

Hanono explained that high-ranking Panama Government officials contacted Mexico's Foreign Relations Secretariat, which consulted Pemex [Mexican Petroleum] export managers, who denied the report. The Mexican press today reported that Pemex would not resume oil supplies to Panama until the latter paid its $23-million debt.

Panama benefits from the San Jose Pact, signed by Mexico and Venezuela. Under this pact, these two countries supply oil to Central American and Caribbean countries at favorable credit terms. This agreement allows Panama to receive up to 12,000 barrels of Mexican oil daily.

The official Panamanian press today said Libya had offered to supply Panama up to $100 million of oil if Venezuela and Mexico suspend shipments.

Nevertheless, Libyan diplomats in Panama said they had no official information about this.

Columbia Calvo, Mexican charge d'affaires in Panama City, said she "had no official information" about the reported suspension of Mexican oil shipments to Panama.

Libya Offers $50-Million Long-Term Loan, Oil

PA1905195589 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 19 May 89 p 21

[Text] The great Arab Jamahiriyah announced on 15 May in Baicla [not further identified] that a long-term loan for approximately $50 million has been granted to the sister Republic of Panama.

This immediate loan will be supplemented [requirira] by a loan in crude oil for a total of 100 million [currency or product not given]. This supplemental loan will be made available if Panama feels its petroleum quota is threatened.

Mexico, Dominican Republic Trade To Increase

PA1905185889 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2300 GMT 16 May 89

[Statement by Luis Barletta, director of the Foreign Trade Institute, on 16 May; place not given—recorded]

[Text] We are finalizing our trade-exchange plan with the Dominican Republic and Mexico, two countries that have a lot to offer Panama. This program will increase Panama's international trade by approximately $15 to 20 million with each of these countries this year. Panama will provide both countries with maritime and air cargo transportation for perishable and nonperishable products.

I recently held a meeting with COPA [Compania Panamena de Aviacion] and Air Panama to establish preferential tariffs, a very important move that will create incentives and encourage commercial development. Special tariffs will also will be established for maritime companies, the railroad—which also transports cargo—and the National Port Authority.

Panama's establishment of preferential freight tariffs for the private sector will increase the international trade the country very much needs.

Official on Canal Commission Replacement
PA2005151189 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 18 May 89 pp A-1, A-2

[Letter to Fernando Manfredo, deputy administrator of the Panama Canal Commission, from Deputy Foreign Relations Minister Jose M. Cabrera Jovanne, issued in Panama City on 28 April]

[Text] 28 April 1989

Mr Deputy Administrator:

I address you in reference to statements made by Mr William Gianelli some days ago before he presented his resignation from the post of chairman of the Panama Canal Commission Board of Directors, because those statements cause concern within the national government, by virtue of both their express content and their possible influence on canal users.

Irresponsibly and without considering the consequences, Mr Gianelli said that the canal runs the risk of being closed down as a result of arbitrary and illegal actions by the Panamanian Government. You, Mr Deputy Administrator, know better than anyone else that this is completely false.

Despite all the illegal and arbitrary actions taken by the U.S. Government in an effort to use the Panama Canal Commission as just one more instrument in its economic aggression and interference in our country's internal affairs, the national government has not deviated in the slightest from its traditional position, announced when the treaty went into effect, that matters related to the implementation of the 1977 Panama Canal Treaties and everything related to the Panama Canal must be kept out of any internal political conflicts among Panamanians and any controversies that might exist between the two governments.

Consequently, if Mr Gianelli, while still chairman of the Panama Canal Commission Board of Directors, has attempted to give the world the impression that the local political situation could affect canal operations, we must consider the possibility that the U.S. Government agency that he heads plans to carry out or promote acts or situations that will indeed have negative effects on the functioning of the canal in order to create a pretext for new and greater abuses against our country and our people—to the canal users' detriment and jeopardizing the canal's economic viability.

Although the diplomatic missions accredited in Panama are in a position to get a first-hand view of the course of events and to provide accurate information to their governments, we cannot underestimate the capacity for distortion, alteration, and invention that is characteristic of the U.S. Government's disinformation campaigns. In view of this, it is necessary to ascertain, to the extent possible, whether Mr Gianelli was expressing the official Panama Canal Commission position and therefore that of the U.S. Government, or whether this was simply an exhibition of the highhandedness and arrogance that he has displayed within the Board of Directors for years.

On the other hand, under the present circumstances, it is necessary for the files of the canal administration and of U.S. Government agencies linked to the implementation of the Panama Canal Treaties to contain a record of an official Panamanian declaration to the effect that, so far, no direct or indirect action by the Panamanian Government has affected or will ever affect the activities necessary for the functioning of the Panama Canal, and that something of the kind could occur only by the deliberate and exclusive actions of the U.S. Government.

Panama is too close to everything, and, because of its multiple and complex links to the rest of the world, the lies that are being fabricated against us are doomed to be of very short use. This encourages us and serves to purify the Panamanian people's spirit of struggle against extreme measures of any kind. However, it would be prudent to seek to create, within the U.S. political decision-making structure, a greater awareness of our true situation and of our genuine interest in establishing relations between the two governments based on equality and mutual respect.

It would be truly regrettable and would have very harmful consequences for the reputation of the United States as a nation that respects law and justice—and for the administration of a binational enterprise destined to serve all the world's nations—to have to bear the stigma of being converted into one more pawn in the heartless and unbearable struggle for domination and power.

We have learned that Mr Robert Page, assistant secretary of the Army for civil works, has been chosen by the U.S. Government to replace Mr William Gianelli as one of the five U.S. citizens who, along with four Panamanians, make up the Panama Canal Board of Directors.

The Panamanian Government hopes that for the good of the canal and its users, Mr Page will come to the Board of Directors with a more responsible attitude than that of his predecessor and that he will realize that for the efficient functioning of the waterway, there must be a harmonious relationship among the board members and compliance with the spirit and letter of the Panama Canal Treaties.

Mr Page's high-ranking position within the U.S. Administration will allow him to exert influence so that the administration as a whole will recognize the U.S. obligation to consider the canal as separate from its foreign policy interests and from any political differences it has with the Panamanian Government.

We therefore hope to see by the next meeting scheduled for early June of this year, we believe that nonmembers of the board can be invited only if they are acceptable to

all the board members and that support personnel, within the numerical limit agreed upon, will receive visas from the United States when meetings are held in that country. [sentence as published]

We hope that in the future the board's bylaws will be complied with and that three of the four board meetings will be held in Panama City, which is the site of the canal and of the administrative and operational problems that will be discussed.

We hope that Mr Page will honor Paragraph 3(a) of Article III of the treaties, which provides for equal rank for the nine members of the board and, if he should be elected chairman of the board, that he will exercise his duties and authority in line with the board's bylaws; that is, that he will preside over meetings and call special meetings at the request of board members.

We hope that Mr Page will realize that the board secretary is simply an auxiliary officer whose duties, as indicated in the bylaws, are to notify members of meetings and to record the minutes of the meetings.

We hope that Mr Page will acknowledge that the administrator is the chief executive of the Panama Canal Commission and is the person who exclusively exercises general and active control over commission offices, business, and operations, and general supervision of its officials, agents, attorneys, and employees.

We hope that Mr Page will realize that the position of assistant chairman of the board does not exist and that it would be illegal to assign the position to anyone, let alone to give that person duties parallel with or equal to those of the administrator.

We hope that Mr Page will realize that the head of Washington's Commission Office is subordinate to the administrator and deputy administrator.

We hope that Mr Page will convince the U.S. Administration that to remove the canal from the present political controversy between the United States and Panama there must be strict compliance with the treaties' provisions, including the turnover to Panama of the funds owed to Panama pursuant to Articles III and XIII of the treaties and of the taxes and social security payments deducted [from employees' wages], which were arbitrarily and illegally withheld by the U.S. Government.

Please accept, Mr Deputy Administrator, assurances of my highest and most distinguished esteem.

Jose M. Cabrera Jovanne

Deputy Minister of Foreign Relations

Solis Palma Resumes 'Domestic Activities'

PA2105033989 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2300 GMT 20 May 89

[Text] President Manuel Solis Palma today resumed his domestic activities throughout the country by visiting San Miguelito District, thus fulfilling his word that once the elections were over, he would return to the country's most populated area and continue to analyze and solve its problems.

During a 3-hour tour through San Miguelito's streets and paths, the chief of the executive branch had the opportunity to talk with hundreds of Panamanians who informed him, using the sincere language of our people, about the progress of some projects that he had ordered and that are being carried out by several government agencies in the various communities composing San Miguelito District.

The projects include the laying of asphalt along the 1-km-long main street in Roberto Duran Neighborhood, the improvements being carried out in the Martin Luther King School and the Valle de Urraca School, the laying of sewer pipes in Veranillo, the repair of a septic tank in Los Andes No 2 Neighborhood and a water tank in Samaria, the construction of a bridge over La Felicidad Creek, repairs to a local sports park, etcetera.

The people of San Miguelito also informed President Solis Palma about other problems concerning their potable water, electricity, telephones, health, roads, streets, education, etcetera. The members of his government team took notes, and the president issued the appropriate instructions to solve those problems as soon as possible.

Solis Palma on Government Resource Allocation

PA2005021689 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 19 May 89 pp 1, 2

[Text] To face the country's current crisis, the government will use a budget that reflects the government's economic situation, human and material resources, and priorities.

To accomplish this, President Manuel Solis Palma met with senior officials of the Ministry of Planning and Economic Policy [MIPPE] and outlined the general guidelines by which public employees will work in the areas and institutions where their services are needed most.

During the meeting, Solis Palma noted that the idea is to organize work so as to improve performance, reduce costs, and fulfill priority tasks.

The recommendations made by Solis Palma are aimed at reorganizing personnel in some government agencies so the agencies will not be over or understaffed. The measures are also geared to better use the government's

human and material resources, and to create a reserve of human and material resources that can be used at any time to complete priority tasks.

President Solis Palma asked the MIPPE to prepare a plan that will be used to implement the measures rationing the state's resources. The document will be discussed at another meeting to be held next week.

Government Announces School To Begin 5 June

PA2105033889 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2300 GMT 20 May 89

[Text] The Education Ministry has announced classes will begin on 5 June throughout the country. The ministry added that private schools and colleges, which began classes on 10 April, are authorized to renew operations on 23 May. Meanwhile, the calendar for night—or adult—schools will be established in the near future. The Education Ministry communique emphasizes that on 29 May, teachers of elementary and high schools that have yet to begin classes must be at their respective posts to organize everything.

Solis Palma Inaugurates Airport Stations

PA2105024489 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2300 GMT 20 May 89

[Text] The Civil Aeronautics Board installed two new telecommunications stations at the airports in Santiago and El Porvenir, San Blas, to maintain the efficiency of local and international aviation in our country. Both stations have a high-powered communications system, meteorological systems, electric generators, and an air traffic control console. Panamanian President Manuel Solis Palma inaugurated the modern air communications systems as part of a nationwide program designed by the Civil Aeronatics Board to modernize the country's airports.

New Weekly Published in Darien Province

PA1905161489 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 18 May 89 p A-4

[From the unattributed "Names and Events" column]

[Text] Candelario Bruntua is the editor of the weekly GARACHINE AVANZA, which is circulating in Darien with great success. The well-written newspaper is printed on mimeograph sheets and carries a great deal of information on the province and social, historical, religious, economic, and international features. This effort by a group of Panamanians, striving to survive and serve the country's progress and culture, deserves to be commended.

Argentina

Alfonsin Considers Moving Up Menem Inauguration

PY2105021589 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0046 GMT 21 May 89

[Text] Buenos Aires, 20 May (TELAM)—Presidential spokesman Jose Ignacio Lopez tonight stated that President Raul Alfonsin "is considering the possibility of moving up the date for the inauguration of President-elect Carlos Menem." He made it clear, however, that this possibility "will require some conditions to avoid violating the Constitution or the state of law."

In remarks at the Olivos presidential residence, Lopez said this would be the only official statement released tonight. He noted that President Alfonsin had considered the possibility of having an early transfer of power "all day" and that he is now having dinner with his closest aides.

Menem on 'Rumors'

PY2105024689 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 2020 GMT 20 May 89

[Text] Buenos Aires, 20 May (DYN)—President-elect Carlos Menem today reiterated his opposition to a possible early inauguration. He noted, however, that if an early inauguration "would benefit the country, we would have to accept it."

Menem made these remarks this afternoon to a metropolitan radio station. He also alluded to "reports and rumors" that the power transfer could be moved up to "20 June or 9 July."

In a conversation with journalist Juan Alberto Mateyko and businesswoman Amalia Lacroze de Fortabat during the program "Saturday Puzzles," which is broadcast over Radio El Mundo, Menem said: "I favor assuming the country's leadership on 10 December, but if there is any possibility of moving up the inauguration at the request of the people, well, we are devoted above all to the Republic of Argentina."

"If moving the inauguration date would benefit the country, we would have to accept it; otherwise, we will continue to wait until 10 December," Menem said.

Concluding, Menem said that "rumors have it that the inauguration will take place on 20 June or 9 July, but these are just dates about which people are speculating."

Alfonsin Releases Statement

PY2205022689 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0039 GMT 22 May 89

[Text] Buenos Aires, 21 May (TELAM)—President Alfonsin this evening said that he will not "evade any responsibility" and that he is willing to remain in power until 10 December. He said, however, that "reducing the transition period, in keeping with constitutional principles and on the basis of a consensus, may help bring under control some economic variables that could otherwise become more difficult to manage."

Here is the official one-page statement issued by the president, which was read by presidential spokesman Jose Ignacio Lopez shortly after 2000:

"I have already said, and I now reiterate, that I will not evade any responsibility. I am willing to discharge all of my presidential duties until 10 December, adopting all the measures that circumstances may demand. I have observed, however, that from the standpoint of the serious economic crisis, the transition period is too long.

"In order to cope with the crisis, the economic measures to be adopted must be based on some basic accords between the outgoing and incoming administrations. This was the objective of the talks we have held with the president-elect and his representatives at the Economy Ministry.

"I believe that reducing the transition period, in keeping with the Constitution and on the basis of a consensus, may help bring under control some economic variables that could otherwise become more difficult to manage.

"An accord is being negotiated by the transition teams of the two majority parties which will state their willingness to allow the president-elect to take over on an earlier date, without violating the Constitution. Just as I am willing to firmly discharge my government duties until 10 December, I am also willing to make any sacrifice for the common good, on the basis of a consensus."

Meeting on Early Turnover

PY2105031289 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0215 GMT 20 May 89

[Text] Buenos Aires, 20 May (TELAM)—Justicialist Deputy Eduardo Bauza tonight told TELAM that through the team designated by President-elect Carlos Menem, the Justicialist Party has called a meeting at 1000 tomorrow of representatives of all political parties, the CGT [General Confederation of Labor], the UIA [Argentine Industrial Union], the UAC [expansion unknown], and the chambers of banks to discuss the possibility of moving up the presidential inauguration.

Bauza, Menem's chief representative at the Economy Ministry, said the main disagreements between his party and the government stem from the fact that his party has requested that all members of Economy Minister Juan Carlos Pugliese's team resign, because they were all members of former Minister Juan Sourrouille's team.

Commenting on this demand, Bauza said: "No measure formulated by the same officials who worked for Sourrouille can be effective or credible."

Economy Minister Questions Rise of Dollar

PY2005024589 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1710 GMT 19 May 89

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 19 May (NA)—Economy Minister Juan Carlos Pugliese today said he did not know why the price of the dollar had run away during the past few hours, although he said he believed it was prompted by "specific causes," which he did not mention, while at the same time saying that "there are small groups opposed to democratic institutions."

The minister commented that "yesterday the dollar rose to 165 australes, without a single dollar moving: nobody purchased or sold." He then asked: "But if no one purchased or sold, and if no one purchased or sold any merchandise, why did this increase affect the prices?"

Pugliese warned that "something is happening that has nothing to do with the normal movement of the markets or with who must purchase and who must sell."

Pugliese then said: "Circumstances have forced the establishment of a single foreign exchange market, which has prompted a great movement of currency conversion." The reason "for this sort of market is to encourage exporters to convert their hard currencies," but "neither exporters, industrialists, nor farmers have sold their hard currencies," he said.

The minister admitted that "the country is obviously affected by an imbalance. Everybody knows it does not have sufficient reserves to maintain a dirty floating foreign exchange [an occasionally intervened free exchange system]. Therefore, everyone is aware that we are experiencing a weakness," but he noted that "rumors in view of the magnitude of the problem are being spread in a malicious way."

In this regard he said that "as a consequence of the 23 billion australes—which sounds like an incredible amount—that will be placed in circulation, some people tend to buy dollars to get rid of their australs. Others keep their dollars and will use the australs that will be placed in circulation to buy more dollars."

Pugliese said: "Those are speculative deals we cannot prevent; the only ones who can prevent them are those who act legally and sensibly, buying and selling what is necessary. Only this will balance the situation." [passage omitted]

Government Decrees Bank Holiday 22 May

PY2105220789 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2135 GMT 21 May 89

[Text] Buenos Aires, 21 May (NA)—It has been officially reported that the government has ordered a bank holiday for 22 May. The holiday, which will also affect the exchange market, will remain in force until the release of an emergency economic plan.

Central Bank spokesmen said that during the holiday banks will continue to pay retirement allowances.

Economy Ministry Announces Transition Program

PY2005003289 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0255 GMT 19 May 89

[Text] Buenos Aires, 18 May (TELAM)—Tonight the Economy Ministry announced an "economic program for the transition period" containing emergency fiscal measures to reduce significantly the financial needs of the public sector and the beginning of urgent negotiations with international financial organizations and foreign creditors.

The program confirms the policy of administered prices and collective negotiations to adjust salaries in the private sector and orders the suspension of subsidies on industrial exports and a 10-point increase in the present rate of hard currency withholding on agricultural and industrial exports. The program also includes a proposal for a moratorium on tax and social security debts outstanding as of 30 April, with the explicit clarification that they will not be forgiven in the future. This item requires the approval of Congress.

In a 10-page communique it was noted that the implementation of the announced measures "would require the support of the recently elected government and the political forces represented in Congress." The program reaffirms that the "policy of administered prices depending on cost variations will be maintained."

The communique confirms the mechanisms of collective bargaining for establishing salaries in the private sector, while maintaining the current practice of setting salaries in the decentralized public sector according to different positions, keeping variations "in line with the rate of inflation for the period for which they are being adjusted." It notes that the minimum salary will be increased "through the appropriate legal channel" and that once political and economic conditions are adequate, a policy of prices and salaries based on agreements between workers and employers will be encouraged. In addition, the minimum salary law should eventually be reformulated.

As for the public utility rates, the Economy Ministry notes that "the move will be directed at recovering their real level so the enterprises can finance themselves, beginning with an immediate 40-percent increase."

A program of subsidies on fuel tax, which in 1988 amounted to expenditures of about $400 million, will be phased out. The proposal eliminates subsidized sale of oil to electricity generating plants, as well as the price differential between oil produced by YPF [Government Oil Deposits] contractors and its sale "not subject to contract," and the elimination of price differentials for petrochemical inputs.

Tax and social security fees owed by enterprises subordinate to the Public Works and Services Ministry will have to be paid immediately, and a decree suspending the initiation of new projects and rescheduling the projects under way in the public sector will be promulgated.

As for official banks, a program will be adopted for canceling credits and rediscounts to the banking system through their conversion into internal public debt, while strict rules will be established for the collection of delinquent credits with the banking system.

Monetary and public debt policy will be directed at compensating eventual macroeconomic and financial imbalances.

The economic program released tonight announces other measures that will require congressional approval, such as a tax on the first sale of agricultural and livestock products as an advance on profit taxes; a land tax replacing taxes on capital and assets; and a moratorium on tax and social security debts outstanding as of 30 April with the explicit provision that they will not be forgiven in the future.

The IVA [Value Added Tax] will be made general at 18 percent, along with a subsidy on the distribution of medicines in public hospitals and the modification of the agricultural emergency program, replacing it with a program of self-insurance for the sector.

A bill intended to improve the financial formula of social security legislation will be introduced in Congress, raising the minimum retirement age and setting the autonomous funds on a sound footing.

It is also proposed to suspend temporarily the benefits for industrial promotion, to modify the current tax on foreign exchange trade, and to speed up the congressional treatment of proposals for the privatization of public services, particularly those of Aerolineas Argentinas and ENTEL [National Telecommunications Enterprise].

Finally, the government will endeavor to approve a tax penalty program.

To complement the proposals, Congress will be asked to partially expand the budget to meet the state's essential operating expenses and to renew laws that expire in late June in order to provide additional financial resources to the provinces. The plan does not call for "any modification of the current foreign exchange schedule."

As for the foreign debt, the text of the document released last night says that "the improvement of the fiscal situation resulting from the measures now being proposed should be complemented with a decision on the economic policies to be implemented by the new administration and with the participation of representatives of the newly elected authorities in the negotiations with international organizations and other external creditors." It also notes that the negotiating strategy "should be agreed on in the next few days with the newly elected administration so that the negotiation can be initiated as rapidly as the circumstances demand."

Menem Says Mission To Seek New U.S. Loans

PY2005010289 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1648 GMT 19 May 89

[Text] Buenos Aires, 19 May (TELAM)—President-elect Carlos Menem has stated that the joint delegation that will travel to the United States to negotiate the foreign debt "will try to convince our creditors of the need for them to disburse between $1.5 and $2 billion, based on what each creditor can afford to give us to reorganize our finances."

Menem stressed that "we need this amount to solve our most urgent problems." He added that "among the Justicialists who will attend the negotiating sessions are Antonio Cafiero, Jose Luis Manzano, Julio Corzo, and economists Domingo Cavallo and Eduardo Curia."

Concerning the foreign debt, Menem said: "Some people cannot understand some situations; therefore, we need to make an inventory of sorts to ascertain the situation of the government."

"In the last 12 months there has been a trade surplus amounting to $3.6 billion, while the reserves amount to barely $500 million. If the interest on the debt has not been paid, where is the remaining $3.1 billion?", Menem asked.

Menem spoke to the press at the military base of the Metropolitan Airport at noon today, shortly before departing in a private plane for La Rioja Province to resume his post as governor.

Asked about the economic situation of the country, Menem expressed "sorrow, like all the people." He said he is trying to "reach political agreements" with the government and several sectors "to find solutions to some of the most urgent problems."

In this respect, he said: "Next week I will meet in La Rioja with representatives of the four agricultural organizations to address these political agreements to at least stabilize the crisis" before the change of government.

He said: "Today we are facing a new package of measures. Let us see how the people react. I hereby reiterate to my people, to all the people, that they should remain calm. Constitutional and democratic order should be preserved above all."

Menem added: "The government must give immediate answers to the crisis. If people ask for opinions, ideas, or some type of proposals, we will answer them, but these actions should be taken by the government."

Menem concluded by reiterating that the names of his cabinet members will be made known "within 30 days." He said, however, that "if necessary they will be made known sooner."

Gassino Chairs Meeting of Army Commanders

PY2005203889 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1645 GMT 19 May 89

[Text] Buenos Aires, 19 May (NA)—It has been learned that the Army commanders believe the outcome of the 14 May election has eased tensions throughout the country. In view of this, they believe "arguments raised by Army personnel involved in well-known acts of indiscipline urging the Army to support the Justicialist Party if the Electoral College had to decide the election have lost ground."

It has been learned that during a recent meeting the Army commanders expressed concern because there is still no consensus at the "political-institutional level" for an "overall and definitive solution" to the problems the Armed Forces are experiencing because of the trials regarding the struggle against subversion.

The meeting of the Army commanders, which was chaired by General Francisco Gassino, started on 18 May and ended today at 1530 GMT.

It was also learned that during the meeting, which was held at the Libertador Building, the Army commanders expressed satisfaction at the behavior of the Army during the recent elections. It was also noted that the Army had shown its willingness and ability to serve society in the tasks of control and surveillance with which it was entrusted, "particularly in view of the atmosphere characterizing the event."

During the meeting the Army commanders also discussed the results of the recent visits paid by the Army chief of staff to Army units throughout the country. They also studied [words indistinct] future operations.

In the meeting, the first since Carlos Menem's election victory, the Army commanders studied a report on incidents of interference with Channel 2 television. This interference had been attributed to Army personnel using military equipment.

In this regard Army sources said the commanders' meeting concluded that [words indistinct] of great magnitude and high frequency, with a range beyond 7 km."

It was also established that "because of its magnitude, this interference could not have been made with portable equipment. This kind of interference can be made only with fixed or semifixed installations located on an elevated site with a specially adapted directional antenna. It would require at least 100 watts of power to interfere with the television channel, which broadcasts with 1,000 watts in the area."

It was stated that "portable Army equipment is not capable of this kind of interference because the broadcast signal of this equipment is less than 30 watts."

For over 90 minutes Gen Gassino today informed all Army commanders about the Army's economic and budget situation in view of the current crisis. Gassino also said that during his recent visits to 13 Army units throughout the country he observed "cohesion" within Army ranks.

Gassino opened the meeting shortly after 1100 GMT and immediately delivered an extensive report on the situation of the Army. A large part of this report was devoted to how the current economic crisis will affect the Army budget and the purchase of Army equipment.

During the morning General Alberto Borla reported on the trials of officers charged with human rights violations.

It is presumed that Borla also mentioned the legal alternatives the Army is studying to end these trials.

General Eduardo Fiorda, Army Institutional Affairs Department director, reported on the official meetings he held with Justicialist Party representatives before the 14 May elections.

It is presumed that Gen Fiorda gave a detailed account of what Senator Eduardo Menem, Roberto Dromi, the president-elect's representative, Deputy Eduardo Bauza, and Deputy Domingo Cavallo said during these meetings regarding ways to solve the current economic crisis and about the military policy to be implemented by the Justicialist Party when it assumes power.

Fiorda said the decisive part of this series of meetings was when Justicialist Party members Cavallo and Bauza delivered a report on the economic crisis. At this point of the commanders' meeting, Fiorda and General Jose Luis Torres engaged in an exchange of opinions.

Leaders Fear 'Social Outburst'

PY2105001689 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0236 GMT 20 May 89

[Text] Buenos Aires, 19 May (EFE)—The Army leadership today studied the country's "critical" economic situation and voiced "concern" about the danger of "social outbursts," military spokesmen said.

A military source told EFE that at a meeting held in Buenos Aires on 18 May, the Army commanding officers discussed budget problems stemming from the economic deterioration caused by hyperinflation.

Army Chief of Staff General Francisco Gassino also conveyed to his comrades his views on the new political situation following the election of Peronist candidate Carlos Menem as new president of Argentina in the 14 May election.

According to military sources, Gassino claimed that Menem's clear victory "has proven wrong those officers linked with acts of indiscipline who predicted that there would be clashes if Peronists failed to win the required number of electors."

Gassino was referring to those officers who rebelled in the Holy Week of 1987, in January 1988, and in December 1988. These uprisings were led by Lieutenant Colonel Aldo Rico and Colonel Mohamed Ali Seineldin.

The rising exchange rate of the U.S. dollar against the austral, by 816 percent since early February, is jeopardizing the Army's re-equipment plans, one of the objectives of the Army leadership that took office following the Villa Martelli rebellion in early December.

A General Staff officer has told EFE that "the prices in U.S. dollars of parts and weapons on the international market are totally out of our reach."

The salaries of military personnel have deteriorated along with those of the rest of the Argentine people, who are enduring a hyperinflationary process that in some cases has caused price increases of more than 145 percent in 2 days.

Military spokesmen reiterated that if "any type of social outburst or popular rebellion" takes place, the Army cannot put it down, "because the National Defense Law prohibits this."

This warning has been regarded by military observers as a form of "pressure" to make the government authorize the Army to take action in domestic conflicts, which is in fact prohibited by the National Defense Law.

The Army promotion board, which is chaired by Army Deputy Chief of Staff Valentin Venier, this morning decided to close an inquest against a lieutenant colonel who accompanied Aldo Rico in the 1987 uprising.

Although the name of the officer was not disclosed, it was learned that the decision is part of a policy designed to remove some "pockets of tension" within the Army.

According to Navy Chief of Staff Admiral Ramon Arosa and Air Force Chief of Staff Brigadier Ernesto Crespo, there are still demands within the Armed Forces for an amnesty that would heal "the wounds" caused by the "struggle against subversion." A total of 18 senior Argentine Army officers and 2 senior Navy officers are still facing charges of human rights violations committed under the military regime.

Former Army Commanders Jorge Videla and Roberto Viola and former Navy Commanders Emilio Massera and Armando Lambruschini are serving jail sentences ranging from life to 18 years for human rights violations.

Former Air Force Commander Orlando Agosti was released on 5 May after serving a 4-year sentence for human rights violations. He was released on bail in a case that was brought against him in 1983 for participating in the 24 March 1976 coup with Videla and Massera.

Chile

Merino Praises Constitutional Dialogue

PY1705035989 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 16 May 89

[Excerpt] Admiral Jose Toribio Merino has said that it is still possible to amend the Constitution and that the resumption of the government-opposition dialogue was a positive development.

The Navy commander made this statement after presiding over the legislative branch meeting at the Diego Portales building.

[Begin recording] [Merino] I believe, as I have said before, that there is hope for an agreement as long as there is dialogue. If there is no dialogue, naturally, there will be no agreement. If a dialogue is held there are chances of reaching an agreement for amendments to improve the Constitution, not to tear it apart. We would thus hold a plebiscite. We need the amendments so that the country may [words indistinct] make progress and continue growing as it should.
[Unidentified reporter] Is there still time?
[Merino] Yes, there is time. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Leftists Released on Bail Pending Court Approval

PY2005125589 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 19 May 89

[Text] Military Prosecutor Ricardo Carrasco has authorized bail in the amount of a 25,000-peso bond of Marxist political leaders Jose Sanfuentes, Rafael Maroto, and Sandra Palestro. The decision is subject to approval by the military court.

During its normal meetins on Monday, 22 May, the court will either confirm or modify the release on bail of the detainees.

Sanfuentes, a member of the Communist Party; Father Maroto, spokesman of a faction of the MIR [Movement of the Revolutionary Left]; and Palestro, a member of the Socialist Party-Almeyda faction are being tried under Article No 284 of the military code for offending or insulting the Armed Forces.

(Jorge Heller) and (German Correa) were also informed about their indictment. Only (Correa) appeared before the military prosecutor so far.

Maroto and Sanfuentes will remain in the Santiago prison and Sandra Palestro at the women's jail until they are released.

* Electoral Law Impact on Senate Races Viewed

33480167b Santiago HOY in Spanish 3 Apr 89 pp 3-6

[Article by Maria Irene Soto: "Candidates for the Senate—Stop and Go"]

[Text] It was in Victoria, during the summer. A committee made up of area notable residents met together—privately—with President Augusto Pinochet. They told him, very bluntly, that the "Santiago" electoral experts in that region, Number IX (the only one where the "yes" faction won), had had the ingenious idea of eliminating nothing more or less than one of the districts—Number 47.

And when all was said and done, this meant two fewer deputies for the government option.

Surprised by the news, Pinochet did not understand very well, at first, what his supporters were getting at. They explained it to him, using pencil and paper to make an outline, showing that the increase in the number of districts in the Metropolitan Region would create a risk that they would lose in the Congress.

Once convinced, the general folded the little sketch in two and tucked it into a pocket in his uniform. And then he returned to Santiago.

This was more or less how the third consideration with regard to the draft law on electoral districts, which was announced just last week, originated. It is the last of the constitutional laws, and according to some experts, it should have been promulgated even prior to the 5 October plebiscite. "This is an inexcusable delay," according to electoral expert Eric Campana, a Christian Democrat.

But the most surprising thing, without a doubt, was the executive proposal to the Ruling Junta that electoral pacts be allowed between two or more groups claiming ideological affinity. Indeed. The very same groups which a couple of weeks ago wanted nothing to do with each other.

It is said that the leading advocates of such pacts were the leaders of the Independent Democratic Union (UDI).

The notorious isolation of the UDI is, if nothing more, a subject of concern to the government political team. This is especially true of Minister of Interior Carlos Caceres, who is even said to have met with some well-known leaders of the National Renewal Party (RN) to inform them of his annoyance.

And there is more. The man who heads the minister's office staff, Arturo Marin, is close to and is known to have excellent relations with the UDI.

However, not everyone in the RN shares the same view. In Sergio Onofre Jarpa's camp, it is said that those who suffered the worst defeat in all of this have been precisely the fellows in the UDI. And this would be because what they proposed was open, rather than closed pacts, such as the government spoke of in its recommendation to the Junta. On the other side of the coin, it is the people in the RN who are happiest with the changes.

A Known Author

But this is not all the law allows. In another paragraph, there is a provision for parties to include on their slates (on which there may be no more candidates than the number of posts to be filled—in other words two) independents who have not been members of political groups. HOY has learned that there is a name attached to this provision. And it is that of the minister and secretary general of government, Miguel Angel Poduje.

According to our information, Poduje informed General Pinochet of his availability as a candidate for a senatorial seat for Santiago, but on one condition—he would prefer to remain an independent.

For this reason, the president called a member of the legislative commission reporting on the draft and specifically instructed him to include this provision.

In any case, it is still not very clear what will happen with the interpretive law conceived by Luz Bulnes to put an end to parliamentary disabilities. It appears that this is not the best solution. The opposition does not like it, nor does Admiral Jose Toribio Merino.

On Tuesday, the 28th, Merino told journalists that "the message the executive branch has sent is very incomplete. This is a much more complex subject, and it has many provisions connected with other laws which cannot be amended, or should have been amended." That same day, he announced that the law would finally be promulgated this Tuesday, 4 April, during the regular session of the Ruling Junta.

The most likely thing is that the law will be approved more or less as it was announced last week. If there are some changes, they would be along the lines of making the requirements the parties must meet when it comes to engaging in an electoral pact more specific. In Merino's view, at least, requiring "ideological affinity" is not enough. He says that what is needed is "something more precise, something more exact." Or perhaps "a narrower framework," as Eric Campana described it to HOY.

Hasty Meeting

And although the text was not legally binding yet, the political parties accepted its mechanisms last week.

Some, such as the Christian Democratic Party (PDC) and the Party for Democracy (PPD) learned of the new draft before it was reported in the press. On the night of Tuesday, 28 March, hasty meetings were called. The map of the districts had changed, and the candidates had to adapt themselves to the new structure.

The problem became rather complicated for the deputies, although not for the senators, of whom there will continue to be two per region (as the Constitution provides). The new electoral map reduces the districts in the Metropolitan Region from 21 to 16, for example, and those in Region VIII from 8 to 7. And it increases those in Regions III, IV, V, VII, and X by 1 each.

And what happened with Region IX and its District 47? Well, nothing. Because in any case the district goes to Region VIII. But the meeting with Pinochet in Victoria was the key to the change in the districts.

A Problem for the Opposition

It is true that pacts could benefit almost all of the political parties. However, the binominal and majority system established by law continues to be a real problem for the opposition. This is because even if 66.6 percent of the votes are won, only one deputy or one senator can be elected. In other words, it may happen that a party, or several of them, thanks to the pacts, can win control of a half of the parliament with only 34.4 percent of the votes.

With these analyses on the agenda, the electoral commissions in each party completed the work begun during the summer last week. At least now they are speaking the same language, a member of one of these commissions told HOY.

On Monday, 27 March, Campana met with the national officers of the PDC and told them plainly that they should not tie themselves to any formula. The goal, he said, would be "to win the largest number of parliamentary seats by making use of all the advantages provided by the law." Everything depends on the region, the district, the projected results of the plebiscite, and what the historic vote has been in each place.

It is thus that Coronel has become the most certain locality for the opposition. In the plebiscite, there were 67.79 percent "no" votes. The worst result, with 39.83 percent, was seen in Villarrica, where it is said a candidate will in any case be elected.

With the figures in hand, the leaders are taking giant steps in negotiation. The individuals getting the most response are the candidates for senatorial seats. The most sought after of all the regions is the Metropolitan Region, because the path from there to the next presidency of the Republic (within 4 years?) is the shortest. This is the reason for the insistence of Ricardo Lagos, who has privately said that he does not want to run against Eduardo Frei, but would prefer to run against Andres Zaldivar. But the PDC has not said who its man will be. For the time being, it is known that the two will be allowed to compete until the time comes for the National Council to make its decision. And there are some who venture to say now, while others state categorically that in the end, the candidate will be Eduardo Frei.

This is the reason Andres Zaldivar is moving quickly. Last week, he notified all of the members of the board of officers and the National Council that he would run as a candidate for Santiago, and also for the presidency of the PDC. Frei, not to be outdone, sent a message to Aylwin telling him he was willing to be nominated. To summarize, the battle will be a rather harsh one.

Important Regions

In sketching the PDC picture region by region, HOY has learned that both Region I and Region II will probably be "surrendered" to the left wing. In Region III, the candidate is Adolfo Zaldivar, who has already announced. Region IV goes to the minority, with Renan Fuentealba as the standardbearer. In Region V, there is Juan Hamilton, and in Region VI, there is doubt—Carlos Dupre and Ricardo Hormazabal are the names most frequently mentioned.

Region VII might be the second choice of Andres Zaldivar if he is not nominated in Santiago. Region VIII continues to be reserved for presidential precandidate Enrique Silva Cimma, although there has been evidence of support for a reworking of the old vice presidencies.

The atmosphere in Region IX is not very relaxed. The Christian Democrat Jorge Lavandero has thrown himself into the fray, and if his party does not support him, he says he will run as an independent. For this reason, the provincial council in Temuco has made a point of asking Enrique Krauss to run as a candidate for the zone. In the last three regions, the situation is a little clearer. At least there is a single PDC candidate for each—Narciso Irureta in Region X, Baldemar Carrasco in Region XI, and Gabriel Valdes in Region XII.

And these are the candidacies for the time being. Once the law is promulgated this Tuesday, the candidates of each party will be more clearly defined. It is indeed obvious that the PDC will not fall below nine, or at worst eight, senators. Meanwhile, a PPD source has assured HOY that his party will settle for seven.

The electoral experts will have a hard time convincing its leaders, especially since according to the opposition count, with a great deal of luck it could elect up to 16 senators. And the PDC and PPD candidates alone total 16.

The best thing would be patience. For, it is said, they will wait until the very last moment on Tuesday, 11 July, to register. And if possible, they will ask someone to make arrangements so that the director of the Electoral Department, Garcia Rodriguez, will not lock the door at midnight exactly.

Colombia

Barco Praises Police Fighting Drug Trafficking

PA1905170389 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1730 GMT 16 May 89

[Text] President Virgilio Barco has praised the work being done by the police in fighting narcotics trafficking, subversion, and common criminals. The praise came during a ceremony to celebrate the 49th anniversary of the General Santander Police Academy, where the policemen who were killed in the line of duty were honored.

[Begin Barco recording] I urge that we redouble our efforts in the prevention of drug addiction, rehabilitation of Colombian consumers, and particularly prosecution of the distributors operating in the streets, neighborhoods, schools, and universities of our larger cities.

With the active participation of the national police, we are studying the possibility of launching a national plan to fight the distribution of illegal drugs by controlling the groups that profit from spreading addiction among the youths. We will not commit the mistakes the industrialized nations are presently making. We will be prepared before we have an epidemic of drug addiction by acting strongly against the sellers and distributors of drugs. [end recording]

Foreign Minister Returns From OAS Meeting

PA2005194389 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1800 GMT 20 May 89

[Text] After brilliantly carrying out his mission at the OAS, Foreign Minister Julio Londono Paredes arrived in Colombia last night. Londono Paredes said that the OAS favorably views the Latin American countries' efforts to help solve the Panamanian political crisis. Upon his arrival, Foreign Minister Londono Paredes expressed optimism about the efforts of the OAS to promote a national and democratic agreement in Panama.

[Begin Londono Paredes recording] I think that there is expectation in the world. I think that Panama, its government, and its various political forces have a big responsibility to the world and to Latin America. [end recording]

The foreign minister confirmed that the OAS secretary general and the foreign ministers of Ecuador, Guatemala, and Trinidad and Tobago will travel to Panama on Tuesday to meet with Panamanian Government officials and political forces to find the means for a transfer of power, which will respect the people's will. The delegation will issue a report on the Panamanian situation at the next OAS consultative meeting on 6 June.

'Powerful' ELN Station Located in Santander

PA2005122289 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0000 GMT 20 May 89

[Report by Pablo Vasquez]

[Text] Just what we need! A powerful ELN [Army of National Liberation] clandestine radio station with trained announcers and correspondents in several cities throughout the country was discovered within the last 24 hours. Let us hear the details about the subversives' radio station. [passage indistinct]

Radio Patria Libre has broadcast 91 newscasts so far and it is believed that the radio station is located in the mountains of Santander. The newscast refers to all aspects of our nation, has eight or nine announcers, and, like any newscast, it features headlines. The news reports are interspersed with the latest songs, but the lyrics are replaced with revolutionary words. The radio station has correspondents in all the municipalities and cities throughout the country, and they are identified by name.

[Begin unidentified speaker recording] Radio Patria Libre has been on the air since last year. Our monitoring station began to hear it on 3 November 1988. They announced to the country's news agencies that they would be on the air by the end of October, so they have been on the air since then. [end recording]

Each of Radio Patria Libre's broadcasts summarizes the activities and policies to be carried out by the ELN in reaction to the government's activities.

* Unemployment Figures Released, Analyzed

* Increased Urban Rate Seen

33480173 Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 27 Apr 89 p 6-B

[Text] Between 30 December of last year and March of this year the unemployment rate rose from 10.2 percent to 10.9 percent. The number of jobless workers rose from 337,000 to 396,000.

In addition, the number of employed persons fell by 72,000 during the same period, from 3,309,000 to 3,237,000.

The unemployment rate for the first quarter of 1989 (10.9 percent) is still, however, lower than that of the January-March period of 1988 (12.6 percent).

According to Alfonso Gonzalez Caro, director of the National Administrative Department of Statistics (DANE), this is a positive indicator. The March figures should not be compared to those of December, he noted, because traditionally in the last month of the year the index falls due to the influence of temporary jobs.

According to the household survey presented by the DANE, Bogota had the lowest jobless rate of the country's four main cities, 9.8 percent. In the capital of the republic there are 1,758,000 people linked to the labor force and 191,000 without jobs.

Barranquilla, in contrast, has the greatest employment problems. Its index climbed to 13.3 percent in March, with 321,000 employed and 49,000 unemployed workers.

Medellin and Cali reported jobless rates of 13 and 10.7 percent, respectively. In the capital of Antioquia, according to the survey, there are 568,000 individuals with definite jobs and 85,000 without employment.

In Cali the proportion is similar: 590,000 employed and 71,000 who would like to obtain work.

Comparing the figures for March 1988 with those of March 1989, we see the following differences in the four main cities: In Bogota the rate fell from 12.2 to 9.8 percent; in Medellin it went from 14.4 to 13.0 percent; in Cali it declined from 11.9 to 10.7 percent; and in Barranquilla it dropped from 13.2 to 13.3 percent.

The unemployment problem lies in the fact that the labor force is growing faster than the needs of the production sector, which has grown at a rate of 4 percent in recent years. This growth rate has fallen short of the targets set by experts such as the Chenery Mission (a minimum of 6 percent a year).

According to the DANE, in three intermediate-sized cities (Bucaramanga, Manizales, and Pasto), unemployment fell from 11.9 percent in the first quarter of 1988 to 10.9 percent for the same period of 1989. Data for Cucuta, Ibague, Monteria, and Pereira were not supplied. All of these cities together reported a jobless rate of 10.7 percent in December.

In Bucaramanga, Manizales, and Pasto, there are 43,000 people who are out of work, although the percentage fell by an average of 1 point in March.

The 10.9-percent unemployment rate for March falls short of the government's objective of keeping the jobless figure to a single digit. The closest point came in December 1987, when the rate was 10.1 percent.

Spokesmen for the trade unions expressed skepticism about the DANE's figures, which indicated a decline in unemployment between March 1988 (12.6 percent) and March 1989 (10.9 percent).

Various analysts contend that the problem of joblessness is a consequence of the government's failure to provide sufficient stimuli for the creation and expansion of productive entities. They also cite current problems such as smuggling that are damaging the country.

Although the phenomenon of unemployment is most manifest in urban areas, the rural sector has not escaped the problem. A DANE survey last January revealed that 263,000 workers are unemployed in the countryside, equivalent to 5.1 percent of the workforce.

This same study indicated that 5,133,000 people in rural areas are eligible to enter the labor market, but only 4,870,000 of them are gainfully employed.

* Figures, Trends Interpreted

33480173 Bogota EL ESPECTADOR in Spanish
30 Apr 89 p 3-B

[Article by Eduardo Sarmiento Palacio: "Paralysis of Employment"]

[Text] The country just completed a full 6 years with a jobless rate higher than 10 percent. The figures released during the week point to a deterioration of the labor situation. Since June of last year, not a single new job has been created in the four major cities.

The debt crisis and the adjustment of the external sector in Latin America had different manifestations in different countries. In Colombia, some of the most serious ones showed up in the employment picture. In 1985, the jobless rate reached one of the highest levels ever seen in the country's history. After a recovery in the second half of 1986 and 1987, when employment grew at a rate of 4.5 to 6 percent, progress has not been satisfactory. In this regard, the misfortunes of our neighbors are hardly a source of solace. The current level of unemployment is the same as those recorded in Argentina, Brazil, and Mexico.

Interpretation of Figures

The DANE reported an unemployment figure of 10.9 percent for March, which is higher than those of September and June 1988, and similar to the average for the last year and a half. The chart shows that employment increased by 87,000 persons between March and June 1988. In addition, it can be seen that in March 1989 the number of employed workers was lower than in December, September, and June 1988. The Colombian economy has gone 9 months without creating a single new job.

Number of Employed Workers in the Four Major Cities

Mar 1988	Jun 1988	Sep 1988	Dec 1988	Mar 1989
3,164,000	3,251,000	3,249,000	3,309,000	3,237,000

Source: DANE

The paralysis of employment has not yet shown up in the jobless rate because of the very weakness of the labor market. This is suggested by the trend in the rate of participation, which corresponds to the percentage of people who are willing to work. This index, which usually tends to rise as a consequence of women entering the labor

force and other factors, declined between March 1988 and March 1989. Apparently, difficulties in obtaining work have created an atmosphere of discouragement that has led the unemployed to stop looking for jobs. Thus, in the last quarter, employment fell by more than unemployment increased. Actually, the unemployment rate is not higher because many of the people who previously were classified as unemployed are now considered inactive. In this regard, an alarm is going off, warning of the rapid deterioration of the labor sector. The current situation has been developing for some time. During the first quarter of last year, I warned that the rising trend in employment that had been observed in 1986 and 1987 had been reversed. On several occasions I argued that the economy had entered an accelerated recessive process in the second half of the year. I previously showed how the indices of stagnation in industry and commerce in late 1988 were replicated in the initial months of this year. Everything has evolved according the purest economic logic. The decline in productive activity was reflected in a decreased demand for labor. Later on, the reduction in employment led to a deterioration in consumption, which aggravated the recession and lay-offs. Finally, a vicious circle began in which these ills have reinforced each other, and will become further exacerbated unless action is taken to correct them.

Design of Policy

The Colombian economy has traditionally operated with high rates of unemployment that many attribute to the high demographic growth rate. This excuse cannot be justified under the present conditions. Throughout this decade, the growth in the labor force has been much lower than in the two previous decades, and the highest sustained jobless rates ever seen in this country have been recorded during this period. The explanation for this paradox can only be found in the insufficiency of the model and the errors of economic policy. In fact, the economic system does not have the capacity for growth or the sectoral composition to absorb the available workforce with adequate remuneration.

The most serious consequences of the predominant pattern can be seen in terms of equity. Without going very far, the decline in economic activity that has been observed since the middle of last year has fallen primarily on the shoulders of wage-earners. In the final analysis, the profits recorded on the books suggest that businesses managed to offset the contraction of production and sales by raising prices. The workers, on the other hand, have been exposed to an erosion of wages and a total stagnation of employment in the last 9 months. In this way, the process of deteriorating labor income that has been observed disturbingly since 1984 has continued. This year, for the fifth consecutive year, the share of workers' income in the national product has dropped.

No one is served well by such a situation. This is demonstrated in the passages written by Keynes more than 50 years ago about the links between labor markets and businesses. The deterioration of income from labor is manifested in conflicts and in shrinking demand, which ultimately dries up profits and blocks markets.

Although employment occupies a central position in official pronouncements, in practice it has not received the desired priority. The macroeconomic policy of controlling inflation was carried out at the expense of economic activity and employment. Nor has anything major been done to promote a change in the structure of the economy to expand the absorption of manpower or to temporarily alleviate the suffering. There has been no significant modification of the conditions for growth and sector priorities, and the government's initial proposal to establish a system of temporary jobs has not materialized.

Recently, a number of indicators have begun to highlight the weakness of the economy and its impact on the labor market. The national product rose by 3.5 percent in 1988, a rate that is generally considered insufficient to absorb the increase in the labor force and unemployment. In addition, in the first few months the rates of industrial and commercial stagnation seen at the end of last year were repeated. Moreover, employment fell in the last 9 months, leading to a situation of discouragement that has led many jobless workers to stop looking for work. For the fifth year in a row, the share of labor income in the national product will have declined. There is no need to wait for more surprises to justify the changes that have been recommended repeatedly in this column. The adjustments in economic policy and in the model will become more difficult as the complex conditions in the economy are allowed to prosper and grow.

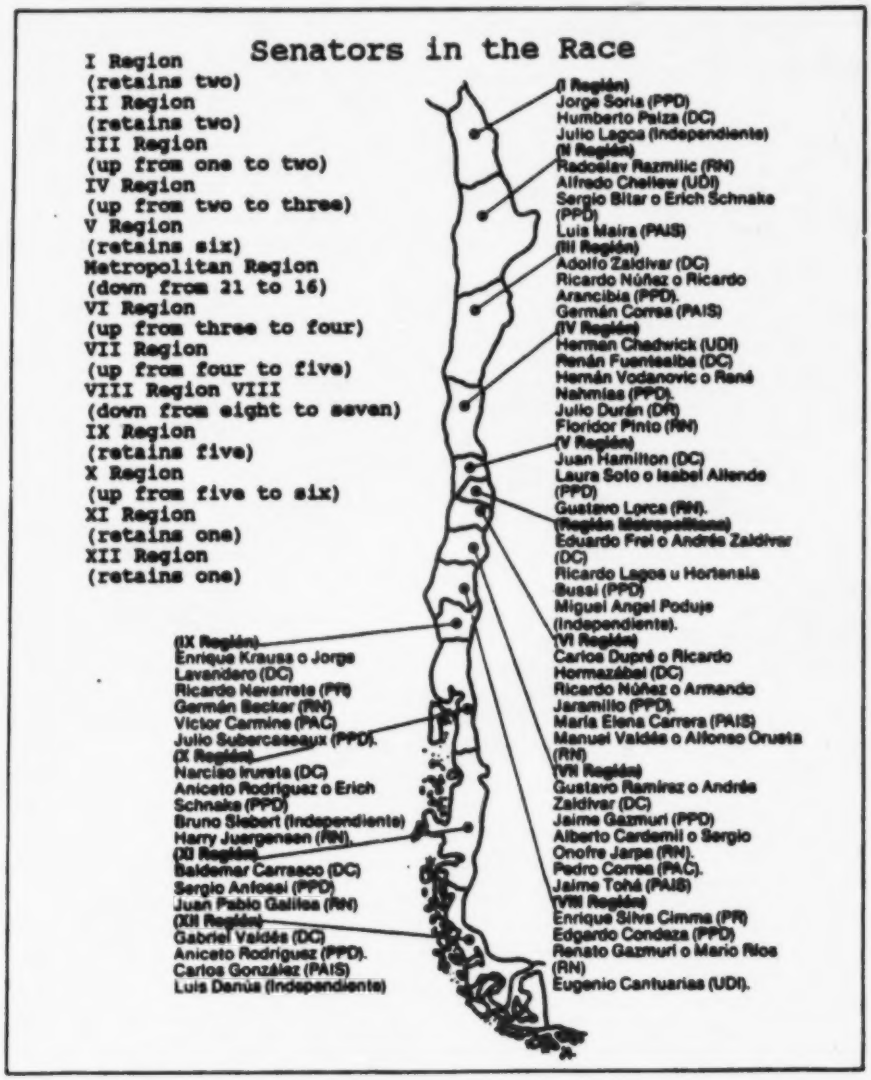
Ecuador

Cordovez Urges L.A. Solution to Panama Situation

PA2005135689 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1230 GMT 20 May 89

[Text] Ecuadoran Foreign Minister Diego Cordovez has promised to help find a solution to the Panamanian crisis. Cordovez returned to Ecuador yesterday afternoon after attending Wednesday's OAS foreign ministers meeting in Washington. The minister said that the participants in the special OAS meeting to analyze the Panamanian situation discussed the proposals presented by Venezuela and Peru. The Peruvian proposal was approved by the foreign ministers. The OAS decided to send a special delegation composed of the foreign ministers of Ecuador, Trinidad and Tobago, and Guatemala, who will assist in the mediation effort between the Panamanian Government and the opposition.

On his arrival from Washington, Foreign Minister Diego Cordovez said that the Panamanian problem caused by the election fraud must be resolved solely and exclusively by Panamanians. Cordovez said that during the OAS meeting the foreign ministers decided to approach the Panamanian problem from a predominantly Latin



American perspective. He added that they decided unanimously to form the delegation consisting of the foreign ministers of Ecuador, Guatemala, and Trinidad and Tobago to promote formulas for a solution and suggestions for bringing about a national agreement in Panama. Foreign Minister Cordovez stressed that these formulas must fall within the framework of democratic mechanisms so as to solve the Panamanian crisis and to proceed to a democratic transfer of power.

[Begin recording] [Cordovez] These formulas for agreement must involve the use of democratic mechanisms, because what brought us all to Washington was precisely the concern that the problems in Panama affect democracy. There is a crisis in Panama that affects democracy. Therefore, the solution must be through democratic means to bring about a transfer of power that will be acceptable to the Panamanian people. Therefore, I think it is very important that this be viewed in the following way: First, that this is our idea—a Latin American idea of how this crisis can be solved. Second, the purpose of this delegation must not be distorted or misinterpreted. It is essentially to help the Panamanians solve their problems. The OAS resolution emphasizes all the principles that all Latin Americans consider fundamental: democracy, nonintervention, and self-determination.

[Unidentified reporter] What formulas will you promote to reach a solution?

[Corvodez] Well, we will discuss that in Panama. It is important that, first of all, we speak with everyone involved in the elections. We have already begun those talks. In Washington we spoke with the Panamanian foreign minister and his advisers. Panamanian opposition representatives were also in Washington. It is important that formulas for a solution be discussed not only among us but also with the opposition.

[Reporter] When do you specifically begin your mission?

[Cordovez] We were ready to travel to Panama immediately, and we so notified the Panamanian Government. (?It said we should arrive) on Monday, and later it was decided that we would arrive in Panama on Tuesday. [end recording]

Regarding the Panamanian situation, Cordovez said:

[Begin recording] I think there is a feeling in Panama that the country is experiencing a very grave crisis. What I would like all of them to understand is that this is a great opportunity to solve the problem through diplomatic and political means, through dialogue and negotiation. That is the Latin American approach to the solution of the problem. [end recording]

Iranian Petroleum Minister Arrives 19 May

PA2005211789 Quito Radio Quito in Spanish 2300 GMT 19 May 89

[Text] Iranian Petroleum Minister Gholam Reza Aqazadeh arrived in Ecuador this morning and was met by Ecuadoran Energy and Mines Minister Diego Tamariz. Aqazadeh is leading an Iranian Government delegation.

During his 2-day stay in Ecuador, Aqazadeh will meet with Ecuadoran President Borja and other government officials to discuss oil issues and other topics. The Iranian petroleum minister said his visit to Ecuador is extremely important, because the next OPEC meeting will be held soon. Aqazadeh said that this is the right time to talk and discuss the upcoming OPEC meeting.

Cuban Higher Education Minister Signs Agreements

PA2005171589 Quito Radio Quito in Spanish 2300 GMT 19 May 89

[Excerpt] Cuban Higher Education Minister Fernando Vecino Alegret, who has been on a visit to Ecuador since 14 May, has toured the main Ecuadoran universities and has signed several cooperation agreements with UNEOC [expansion unknown]. Cuban Higher Education Minister Vecino said that Cuba and Ecuador cooperate in many ways, particularly in the field of medical research through the Central University of Ecuador. [passage omitted]

Peru

Sanchez Criticizes Menem's Remarks on Policies

PY1905184989 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1419 GMT 19 May 89

[Text] Lima, 19 May (EFE)—Peruvian Prime Minister Luis Alberto Sanchez, who is also first vice president, today expressed his displeasure over a statement by Argentine President-elect Carlos Menem regarding the Peruvian Government headed by President Alan Garcia.

Menem said that when he assumes the Argentine Presidency in December he will not make "the same mistakes" that Alan Garcia made regarding economic policies.

Sanchez, who has a daily radio program on the "Radio Programas del Peru" radio station, which he has not suspended despite his current cabinet post, said that Menem's words "are discourteous."

Sanchez, who did not mention Menem by name, said he is "sorry this happened in a country with which Peru shares similar roots."

Sanchez said we should "act respectfully" and "according to our ideas."

Sanchez said Peru supplied "Mirage" planes to Argentina during the Malvinas Islands war as a sign of Peruvian appreciation.

Luis Alberto Sanchez, the 80-year-old politician and university teacher, makes radio commentaries on diverse topics on the "Radio Programas del Peru" program.

This versatile man, who regularly writes in Peruvian publications, is one of the oldest and most respected leaders of the American Popular Revolutionary Alliance (APRA).

'Economic Cooperation' Accord Signed With USSR

PY1905143289 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 0100 GMT 19 May 89

[Text] The National Bank and the Foreign Trade Bank of the Soviet Union [Banco Para Asuntos Exteriores de la Union Sovietica] today signed an important agreement on economic cooperation to promote trade development between the two countries.

[Begin recording of unidentified Peruvian official, in progress]...invited to this simple but, I would say, relevant ceremony with the presence of two banks, namely the Foreign Trade Bank of the Soviet Union and the National Bank, Peru's largest bank. The purpose of this ceremony is to sign a financial agreement that will facilitate balanced trade operations between Peru and the Soviet Union for about $45 million—actually 30 million rubles—until the end of 1990.

This agreement will permit payments to be made on these balanced trade operations. The agreement is being signed here in the presence of Mr (Andrey Kanushkiy), the manager of the Foreign Trade Bank of the Soviet Union, and Mr (Andrey Ivanov), the Soviet trade representative in Peru. [end recording]

'Terrorist Commando' Kills Azangaro Mayor

PY1905192389 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 1800 GMT 19 May 89

[Text] This morning a terrorist commando shot dead Marcelino Pachaci, the leftist mayor of Azangaro, Puno Department. The police reported that the crime was committed in Arapa. An Azangaro police spokesman has reported that the mayor had rejected police protection offered by the department's prefect.

First Quarter Trade Balance Figures Released

PY1905201289 Lima Domestic Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 19 May 89

[Text] According to the Foreign Trade Institute, Peru's trade balance for the first quarter of the year showed a surplus of $416.4 million. During this period, Peru exported goods worth $829 million and imported goods worth $412.6 million.

Venezuela

President Perez on Strike, Panama Issue

PA2005033789 Caracas Venezolana de Television Canal 8 in Spanish 2203 GMT 18 May 89

[News conference by President Carlos Andres Perez with domestic and foreign reporters in Caracas—live]

[Excerpts] [Moderator] We will begin this news conference with a question from Jesus Losada Rondon of EL UNIVERSAL.

[Losada Rondon] Good evening, Mr President. I have a question about the latest developments. What do you think about the strike, how much support did it have in Caracas and in the interior, and what could be the immediate and long-term consequences of this 12-hour strike? [passage omitted]

[Perez] We have lost a day of work. What have we gained? This is what I want my fellow countrymen to think about. I do not want to engage in polemics. The moment it was stated that a strike was possible, I said: Labor leaders would be responsible for that.

Today I pose that question to the [illegible]ion.

I want to be positive. We have experienced today. Now let Venezuelans think carefully.

I want to tell businessmen, workers, political parties, and all the active sectors of Venezuela something I have been thinking about today: We have to be fair with Venezuela. We must reflect and analyze the situation we are experiencing and understand how we must behave.

When I was inaugurated, the situation was stagnant. We were out of international reserves. Prices of many items were restricted in such a way that supplies were threatened. We had to necessarily reach an agreement with the IMF. This does not mean that Venezuela has been cornered. Venezuela is not cornered. No one can corner Venezuela. However, we realized that the time for profound reforms had arrived. Those reforms are aimed at ending stagnation and creating opportunities to build solid bases for the Venezuelan economy. Sacrifice and suffering are inevitable. We are doing this with faith and courage. Courage is necessary because many Venezuelan sectors do not have much of a sense of responsibility.

This is how we feel; this is the way we are. This is what our political life and our reason for existing in Venezuela's social struggle is all about. We have not forgotten the poor. We do not ignore the consequences that these profound reforms would have on the country.

We have begun implementing selective social measures. At the end of this month, 600,000 mothers will begin receiving food benefits, and the massive construction of day-care centers for the children of mothers who have been abandoned and for poor children will begin.

The measures we have announced will be implemented.

Workers' salaries have been raised, and there will be more raises in the future. Now, I repeat, businessmen and workers must play fair with Venezuela. The speculation that has emerged in this first stage in which we are overcoming the difficulties we have experienced... [Perez changes thought] There has been speculation, without a doubt. This speculation has served as the main excuse or the main reason for this strike.

However, I do not think a strike will solve this situation. We will solve this situation through cooperation. Today, despite the fact that it would seem that we deviated from the principles of agreement, I once again ask the Venezuelan nation for an agreement with the slogan: Let us all play fair with Venezuela. That is our responsibility. That is my answer to your questions, my dear and experienced friend, Jesus Losada Rondon.

[Moderator] We continue the news conference with EL NACIONAL reporter Amado Fidel.

[Fidel] Good afternoon, Mr President. I have two questions. First, I would like to address the issue of the strike once again. You just said that an agreement is necessary. Could the strike lead to a restructuring of the government's economic policy? My second question addresses the RECADI [Differential Exchange System] case. The

government began to investigate this case, but has released no results as of yet. Has the investigation been stopped? Or was there never an investigation to begin with? If there has been an investigation, what have the results been?

[Perez] Let us begin with the first issue—the issue of agreement. A dialogue is necessary for an agreement. Having a dialogue, however, implies that there is permanent social conflict and divergence in a society. The first thing we must realize is that protests are inevitable in any society that wishes to reach an agreement. We must allow a great deal of room for dissent. This is the path that will lead us to a dialogue.

That is why, after the strike, I do not speak of closing the path. Rather, I speak of widening it and of accepting that dissent must be present in a democracy and that it is dissent which may lead to dialogue. In a short time, it opens the door to an agreement. I think this is the path we should follow. We will firmly continue developing our economic policy. Making these major reforms is our only alternative.

This does not mean, however, that we reject dialogue. We are willing to examine different positions, but we must talk about them. If it is possible and convenient to rectify our economic policy, then we have no reason to refuse. What do we want? We are anguished over Venezuela. We want to rescue the country from its situation. As of this moment, no one has presented another alternative. Do we break with the IMF? Is that the measure we must take? What would happen then? We would hamstring our country's economy. In our case, the measures will not just be limited to the Citicorp seizing $80 million, as it did in Ecuador—a measure that we are cordially investigating and that we are willing to protest. In our case, Venezuela's property abroad will be seized and we will be left with no chance of obtaining foreign resources. Breaking with the IMF is one of the measures we could take to change our policy.

Refusing to pay the foreign debt is another measure we could take. You know my policy regarding the debt. I have been the most perservering, persistent, and courageous Venezuelan in this regard. I have never stopped struggling against the industrialized countries' irrational, inconsiderate, and even obscene policy toward our country. We are making achievements and breakthroughs in this regard. We will find a solution to the debt problem. But what will we gain by saying we will not pay the debt? We would be in the same situation as if we had broke with the IMF.

Should we break with OPEC to sell more petroleum and to have greater resources? Will these resources replace those we could obtain from the IMF and the World Bank? Is this a feasible option?

We must see things clearly. Let us play fair with Venezuela, my fellow citizens. It is the only way to get out of the serious crisis we are experiencing.

Next week, I will announce Venezuela's commercial and tariff policy. In other words, I will be announcing the new industrial policy the government will implement in order to participate competitively on the international market. This will be another way of increasing employment and bettering the Venezuelan people's welfare.

My position, therefore, very clearly takes Venezuela's leading problems into consideration. I know the Venezuelan people have confidence in me. They know that I will gradually resolve our current problems, that I am working on our economic problems, and they are particularly aware of my efforts to do away with the artificiality we have lived with for so many years.

We have these many problems because businessmen criticize me. Some business sectors exert continuous pressure on the government to force it into adopting measures such as these because they are personally suffering the consequences of mistakes they have made. The labor sectors also criticize me—and rightfully so—because it is dangerous to adopt measures such as these in the midst of social deterioration, in the midst of the unstoppable decline in the real value of Venezuelans' salaries, which began in 1983. In the midst of this social deterioration, I have been forced to take these painful but necessary measures, because my goal is not the Venezuela of 3 months or 1 year, but the larger picture, the Venezuela of the future.

I will pursue this economic policy and I will complete the group of measures, which have been called a package, by announcing our industrial and tariff policies, which will provide Venezuela with an overall economic situation in which each sector and individual will know what to expect.

This brings us to the agricultural issue. I have not included agriculture in the commercial and tariff reform because it is the weakest link of our chain and I need a few more years before it can be included. For the time being, we must strengthen the agricultural sector. This has been a bad year for agriculture. Many lies and falsehoods have spread. Some people have said Venezuela should open its doors to agricultural imports, and that I am going to close the door on every possible solution. All of this is false, but be patient. I will announce the commercial and tariff policy next week, and I will do it myself because of the policy's significance. [passage omitted]

[Moderator] Now Luis Garcia Amor, deputy director of EL DIARIO DE CARACAS, will ask a question.

[Garcia Amor] Good evening, Mr President. I will ask two questions that, as a journalist, I feel all Venezuelans are asking themselves. Why should we all sacrifice? What

is the reward? The IMF is reluctant to grant the loans the country needs. We know that if we do not get that money, the government's economic policy will take a step backward, which would mean our sacrifice was in vain. Also, why were price controls dropped before the new customs policy was ready?

[Perez] Those are very good questions. As you said, there is much speculation in the press, and economic experts and politicians are always discussing those subjects. First of all: We cannot move backward, because that would be catastrophic for Venezuela. Instead of having a 35-percent interest rate, we would have a 300-percent interest rate as in Argentina; and instead of a 20- or 30-percent inflation rate, it would be 1,000 percent.

We are moving in the right direction with the economic policy we have designed. However, there are certain factors that condition the success of this policy, which—unfortunately or fortunately, depending on your viewpoint—is irreversible. We need new resources.

I wonder why my friend from EL DIARIO DE CARACAS said we are not going to get those funds. We are going to get them. I am absolutely sure we will, and we are going to carry out our foreign debt policy, because it is necessary. I have said that if this problem is not solved in 1989, Latin America—not only Venezuela—will begin a process of violent, almost catastrophic crisis that will destabilize even our democratic political process. We are facing crucial times when peoples must risk everything, and that is what we are doing in Venezuela. I am not pessimistic; I am totally optmistic, but not because I believe that, according to a biblical passage, the Lord is going to send us manna to satisfy our hunger and needs.

I am optimistic because of the work we are carrying out and because of the awareness that is growing in Latin America and in the industrialized countries. This is preparing the ground for the solutions we see coming. Therefore, the answer is very simple. Why these sacrifices? So that Venezuela will be a country in which so much anguish and so much poverty will gradually lead to social welfare. It would be a lack of respect for myself and for my people to say that we are going to perform miracles and that we are going to get the things that we lack overnight. No. But we will get them. They will be the result of the Venezuelans' sacrifice and effort. We will value our efforts and enjoy the results even more. We must go ahead with this policy.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct]

[Perez] No, that is not so. First of all, one of the mistaken notions is that trade reforms are a liberalization. No, I am not a neoliberal, nor will I ever carry out a neoliberal policy in Venezuela. To end all price controls would simply be to surrender to the industrialized countries, which tell us that we must open our doors so that there will be free competition and free trade. A country such as ours, a developing country, is not in a position to do this. This will have to be the result of a process of many years when we will be able to achieve this total opening. We have to use our tariff and trade reform policy as a way of modernizing Venezuelan industry and making it competitive. That is the essential goal of our trade policy. But our trade policy is not an anti-inflationary policy, nor is it aimed at curbing inflation. The objective of our trade policy is industrial policy, which we will develop to make Venezuela the great country we want it to be.

Of course, in this initial phase, our trade and tariff policy will help reduce inflation somewhat, because it will contribute to ending the speculation and manipulation of prices that has occurred in Venezuela. But that was inevitable. The sooner we end price controls, the better we can face this situation. Yes, this step will really make businessmen realize that speculation is suicidal. Please note that I did not say self-suicidal. [laughter] It is collective suicide. If businessmen realize this, we can say that the strike met a great goal. But I do not think we are going to meet this goal unless it is through a concerted agreement.

But this day has been a day of reflection on what is happening and on what should not happen in Venezuela. Therefore, this is not the result of an error but is the result of a policy we have been carrying out. We knew that, because of the deep social problems in Venezuela, this policy would cause immense difficulties and would meet with lack of understanding on the part of many sectors. I sense this lack of understanding. It hurts, because I have been and will always be a man close to the people's desires and feelings.

[Moderator] Next is reporter Orlando Azcano of the newspaper EL MUNDO. [passage omitted]

[Reporter Orlando Azcano of the newspaper EL MUNDO] It has been rumored in domestic and international political circles that in your talks with President Bush and the U.S. ambassador in Caracas, you promised to make efforts to get General Noriega to leave Panama in exchange for the United States helping Venezuela receive new loans from international organizations. Is there any truth to that?

[Perez] Venezuela is a very dignified country. Venezuelans have the good fortune of knowing how to respond to that dignity. We struggle for democracy. I do not need any offer and would not accept any offer to struggle for Latin American democracy. That is not my style. I have not acted like that. I am proud that we [the Latin American countries] reached a consensus agreement at the OAS to condemn Noriega's government and the abuses and excesses he has committed in his country. However, we must seek the path of dialogue in Panama to reach a democratic solution. We do not want to corner General Noriega; we want to find a solution to Panama's

problem. What happened at the OAS is a clear victory for Latin America that we cannot allow to be marred by statements to the effect that we have been bought or that we are selling ourselves.

Our problems are our own, and we do not beg for anything. I told the Council of the Americas in New York that I was not going to beg for help. I said I was going to offer a deal to the United States, which was that of a great Latin America that would play an important role in the international community. On behalf of that Latin America, I proposed reaching an understanding to solve the foreign debt problem. That is the position I have maintained and will always maintain. I will tell you that I am quite satisfied with the new attitude and policy taken by the Bush Administration. The Latin American countries have taken the leading role in the Panama situation. Nine Latin American countries worked in Washington to draft the final resolution that was approved by the OAS. After the resolution was drafted, we called the U.S. representative and proposed it to him. We also called the representatives of the other OAS members and proposed it to them.

This is a new type of behavior. We have to get rid of inferiority complexes. We do not have to bow and accept arrogant policies and, much less, outmoded policies of subordination to the United States. We are pleased that on this occasion we had this frank dialogue, that on several occasions I talked with President Bush on the Panama problem, that I talked with practically all the Latin American governments to seek a way out, and that Venezuela, with its initiative of calling for an OAS foreign ministers meeting, contributed to reaching this great objective. This made a U.S. intervention in Panama less likely. One of the points of the resolution signed by the United States says that respect for and compliance with the 1977 Torrijos-Carter treaties will become one of the most important issues to be defended by all Latin America, because the treaties have a universal meaning. [passage omitted]

[Moderator] CRITICA editor Emiro Echeto Larocha has the floor now.

[Larocha] My question deals with a concern of all Venezuelans. The economic measures have caused problems. A few minutes ago you talked about that problem. There is an epidemic of pessimism in Venezuela. For many people, especially for those who do not know very much about economic matters, Venezuela's immediate future looks very bad in view of the irreversible effects of inflation. All that is very worrisome. We understand that you, who firmly believed in the success of the economic measures, are also beginning to have doubts about these measures, although a few minutes ago you said the government will implement the economic measures regardless of what the people want.

[Perez] My dear friend, we should pity the man who does not have doubts, because he is either a madman or an idiot. No one can claim to know the absolute truth. As far as social and economic issues are concerned, there are no black and white solutions.

Anything is possible when it comes to social and economic issues. I, however, have never said I have doubts about the goal of the economic measures. At the beginning of the news conference I said the economic package is the only path Venezuela can follow right now. Obviously, every path is crooked. Only in mathematics—and in no other field—is a straight line the shortest distance between two points. A straight line does not exist, because man cannot do everything he would like to. That is how we should view this problem. I am sure we are on the right path.

If oil prices drop dramatically, we would face a serious problem because we would need more resources. That, however, would not prove we took the wrong measures. If it takes a long time to get foreign loans—something that will not happen—we would have a serious problem, but that would not prove our measures were wrong.

We are willing to talk with all sectors. We are willing to listen to everyone's ideas, because eventually we will need new ideas to implement a certain policy, and we are willing to change our policy if necessary. That is absolutely possible. One cannot act as if one knows the absolute truth. The economists who are my advisers believe in many different theories and strategies. [passage omitted]

[Moderator] TASS journalist (Boris Kerbakov) will now ask a question.

[(Kerbakov)] Good afternoon, Mr President. Please allow me to ask you two questions on behalf of my news agency. My first question is the following: At the UN General Assembly, Mikhail Gorbachev addressed the issue of the debt problem, which affects the developing countries. He proposed that international efforts be made to solve this problem and pointed out that the United Nations is the most appropriate forum for these efforts. He favored the formation of an institution, within the UN framework, to examine the situation and devise actual steps toward solving this issue, which he described as civilization's most acute problem. What do you think of Gorbachev's statements and proposals?

[Perez] At the time, we said that General Secretary Gorbachev's speech had been of great significance and that it was a milestone in foreign policy. It confronted the debt problem and was a challenge to the Western nations. Today I reaffirm that idea. Fortunately, initiatives are being taken in the United States and Europe, and the ideas being debated are similar to those expressed by General Secretary Gorbachev at the United Nations.

[(Kerbakov)] The second question concerns relations between our countries. The USSR is carrying out extensive cooperation programs with Third World countries. It is supplying them with hydroelectric power plants, tractors, and agricultural technology. This contributes decisively to their development progress. You know those power plants and tractors are of a high quality that is recognized throughout the world. What is your opinion on the possibility that the USSR and Venezuela can begin concrete negotiations in these fields?

[Perez] We are opening our trade and relations to the entire international community. That includes our relations with the USSR. What you propose is entirely possible. I hope General Secretary Gorbachev will visit Latin America and Venezuela. I had the opportunity to send him an invitation when I congratulated him for the position he assumed on the debt at the United Nations. The truth is that we have also had to implement perestroika around here. [Perez laughs]

[Moderator] (Fulvio Bufacto) from the Italian news agency ANSA has the next question.

[Bufacto] Mr President, at the end of a news conference, the most important subjects inevitably have been covered. I am therefore going to ask for your thoughts on two things rather than ask questions. First, you were constantly criticized during your first 100 days in office for contradictions in your political statements. In fact, you always expressed solidarity with and sensitivity toward the poor, those most affected by the present austerity. However, you also implemented the economic adjustment plan on 16 February, which provoked violent disturbances, a general strike, a bakers' strike, and a 100-percent rise in the cost of living. The second issue is your request for a national agreement, which you declared fundamental for the success of your government. Now it seems that the political parties, the business groups, the unions, and the workers are all opposed to you.

[Perez] I do not know what contradictions I could be accused of, because one of the things that gives me satisfaction is the complete consistency between my thoughts and actions. For example, it has been said that I had promised to fight inflation and that the first 100 days caused inflation. For God's sake, how can anyone think that a devaluation from 14.50 to 37.00 bolivares to the dollar would not cause inflation? How can anyone think that a devaluation from a 7.50 bolivares per dollar exchange rate—used for many imported goods—to an exchange rate of 37.00 bolivars per dollar would not cause inflation?

However, this is the inevitable first stage—this is what we said from the beginning. But look at what is happening. Inflation decreased in April. Inflation will again decrease in May, and we will continue this way until we normalize our country's economic situation with the economic adjustments. However, there are no contradictions of any kind. At the same time we have taken a series of measures to lessen the impact of these decisions on lower-income groups.

I spoke of an effective social policy. One must remember that 28 billion bolivares were added to the state budget to increase public sector salaries and wages and that an even greater amount is being spent by the private sector on salary increases.

Now we have to see what the 6 billion bolivares spent on the food program will do for 600,000 of the neediest families and what all the social programs implemented to ease the situation of the lower-income groups will do. And so this is [word indistinct]. If the labor sector alone opposed my economic policies, I would be doing something wrong because I would be affecting only the labor sector. But because many groups are affected, this means deep reforms are being carried out that will correct all the myths and inaccuracies on which Venezuelan economic policies are based.

We have also worked with a social spirit. We have combined social and economic policies. Therefore, that is what convinces me we are doing what we must do. I repeat what I said at the start, because this is something I greatly believe in: We must be faithful to Venezuela. After what happened, we are going to insist more vehemently on the need for an agreement. We cannot lose a day's work. We cannot weaken the national economy. We must reinforce it as much as we can to defeat the crisis. We cannot do that, however, if various segments of society take a confrontational stand.

It is well known that conflicts exist in all societies. Giving ample room for dissent is necessary to reach an agreement. One can say this is contradictory, but it is not. That is democracy. We participate in a dialogue because there are differences, disagreements, and protests. From a dialogue we go to a negotiation, because that is the way to turn the dialogue into something practical and to combine ideas stemming from the different positions taken by different groups. Therefore, we are trying to end conflicts and bring positions closer. Now, after the strike, an agreement appears to be an inevitable need, unless we go mad and believe we must engage in futile squabbles and useless disputes, with everyone stubbornly pushing his ideas. That is not being faithful to the country. [passage omitted]

Thank you. I am very pleased to have had the opportunity to talk with you at the end of this peaceful day. I hope all Venezuelans have realized that the current crisis calls for understanding, which is necessary for Venezuela to solve its problems. It is not a question of helping this or that party. All parties and Venezuela itself will fail if we do not agree on our actions. That is why, my dear fellow countrymen, we must be faithful to Venezuela.

Tejera on Noriega Ouster, U.S. Troop Presence

PA2005013889 Paris AFP in Spanish 2107 GMT 19 May 89

[Text] Caracas, 19 May (AFP)—Venezuelan Foreign Relations Minister Enrique Tejera today stated in Caracas that General Manuel Antonio Noriega's ouster from Panama "is the condition to establish a credible democratic government in that country."

Tejera defended the U.S. Government's right to station troops in Panama "to defend" the canal's "vital installations," and he added that "even so, the canal is vulnerable."

Tejera referred to a recent OAS meeting at which the 20 OAS member countries agreed to send a delegation of three foreign ministers to Panama to seek a solution to the conflict.

Tejera stated: "Noriega's ouster is not the purpose of this mission. Its purpose is to establish a diginified constitutional regime in Panama; a regime that respects human rights."

However, "the problem is that if a new regime is to be credibile, Noriega must sacrifice his position and add this sacrifice to the other sacrifices that have been made. There will thus be a democratic and credible government."

He added that the OAS meeting showed that the United States, as well as the rest of Latin America, wants to find a diplomatic solution to prevent military intervention.

Tejera said: "I am satisfied because, for the first time, I have totally agreed with the United States (at an OAS meeting)."

The United States increased its security contingent in Panama by sending some 2,000 Marines after the annulment of the 7 May general elections. These troops were sent to reinforce the 10,000 soldiers stationed in the Panama Canal zone.

The delegation, headed by OAS Secretary General Joao Baena Soares, and comprising Guatemala, Ecuador, and Trinidad and Tobago, will travel to Panama on Sunday and meet with Noriega's government on Monday.

The delegation will present its proposal for a peaceful solution to the Panamanian crisis on 6 June at the OAS.

Iranian Petroleum Minister Visits, Signs Pact

PA2205020589 Caracas Venezolana de Television Canal 8 in Spanish 0000 GMT 20 May 89

[Report by Jenny Silva]

[Text] Venezuela and Iran have signed a memorandum for a commercial agreement by which our country will sell 300,000 metric tons of iron to that Islamic nation, a figure that will increase to 500,000 metric tons by 1990.

The negotiations were concluded during a visit by Iranian Petroleum Minister Gholam Reza Aqazadeh, who arrived in our country today at 0600. According to the memorandum, Iran and Venezuela have agreed to begin technical cooperation concerning drilling for and extraction of heavy crude oil and the procedures developed by the Venezuelan oil industry to distribute and process oil.

In addition, technical commissions were appointed by each country to represent specific projects at a meeting scheduled for December following a visit to Iran by a Venezuelan delegation led by Energy and Mines Minister Celestino Armas.

The programs to rebuild the Iranian economy will create a good market for Venezuela, because that nation will buy approximately 300,000 metric tons of iron from us this year and 500,000 metric tons per year from 1990 to 1997.

[Begin Armas recording] In addition, Minister Aqadazeh clearly stated that Iran hopes Venezuela will be able to meet Iran's needs. Those needs are greater than what Iran has been able to negotiate for so far. It will all depend on Venezuela's ability to supply greater amounts of these products. [end recording]

Other OPEC nations are also interested in visiting Venezuela, including Kuwait, whose oil and industry minister, 'Ali al-Khalifa al-Abdi al-Sabah, will arrive on Sunday. Kuwait is one of the richest countries in the world, and it has the greatest investment potential of all the Arab nations in OPEC. Kuwait currently has oil and tourism investments in the United States and Europe.

With regard to Venezuela, Kuwait is interested in our nation's industries, particularly steel and aluminum production. Venezuela is making a series of important contacts for the future—a future in which the country wants to begin a nationwide commercialization and industrialization process. Our OPEC associates' capital comes at the right time, and it can help strengthen Venezuela's relations with those countries.

Gives Perez Khamene'i Message

LD2005194289 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1630 GMT 20 May 89

[Text] According to a Central News Unit report, Petroleum Minister Aqazadeh arrived in Quito, the capital of Ecuador, yesterday, from Venezuela, to hold talks with Ecuadoran officials on mutual cooperation and the next OPEC session.

Before leaving Venezuela our country's petroleum minister conveyed a message from President Khamene'i to Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez and discussed the expansion of economic ties, especially regarding the transfer of technology, heavy crude oil refining, steel and aluminum production, and cooperation between the two countries within OPEC.

CTV Leader: Strike 'Strengthened' Democracy

PA2005034889 Caracas Venezolana de Television Canal 8 in Spanish 0000 GMT 20 May 89

[Report by Marbella Molina]

[Text] Leaders of the Confederation of Venezuelan Workers [CTV] do not believe that yesterday's strike was a waste of a day; quite the contrary, they believe that both Venezuela and democracy won.

Sotero Rodriguez, who was the strike's operation committee coordinator and is a current member of the CTV National Executive Commission, has responded to statements by the president concerning the strike held by the country's largest labor organization.

Rodriguez said that the strike was carried out with great honesty and seriousness by the workers. Regarding a loss of time, he believes this was not the case, because in the end he is sure that the whole country won and its democratic system was strengthened. In addition, Rodriguez thinks that the president's statement does not represent a challenge.

[Begin Rodriguez recording] I think that his statement does not involve a challenge but is food for thought, because everyone in this country tries to give his best for the development of our nation and institutions. Some of these institutions are the state itself, the working classes, the political parties, and the labor unions. If those labor unions and the people's organizations feel dissatisfied at a given time, it is appropriate to protest, to let their dissatisfaction be known, and (?to seek a solution). [end recording]

Evaluation of the nationwide strike began today, but the National Executive Council members will meet next week and decide new actions to allow effective achievements for the working class. These new actions will be revealed later.

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